



Barron County District Attorney

1420 State Hwy 25 North – Room 2301
Barron WI 54812-3003

TEL: (715) 537-6220
FAX: (715) 537-6155
E-mail: dabarron@da.wi.gov

Brian H. Wright

John M. O'Boyle
John A. Rafa Todd
Dustin M. Rockow
Assistant District Attorneys
Christina Smith
Victim/ Witness Coordinator

PRESS RELEASE

No criminal charges will be filed in the November 19, 2024, fatal crash that tragically killed a motorist who was attempting to remove a deer carcass from the roadway after striking the deer on U.S. Highway 8 near County Highway KK, in Barron County. Neither of the two drivers who struck the decedent were under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

The crash synopsis provided by the Wisconsin State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit is that the vehicle driven by the decedent was traveling eastbound on U.S. Highway 8 near County Highway KK when it struck a deer. Another motorist stopped to assist the decedent. A decision was made by the decedent and the assisting motorist to try and remove the deer carcass from the roadway. The decedent and assisting motorist moved into the roadway as two vehicles traveling eastbound approached on U.S. Highway 8. The decedent attempted to signal his location in the road with a small flashlight. At this location, U.S. Highway 8 is two adjacent lanes traveling eastbound with a right turn lane to County Highway KK south bound, and a single lane westbound with a right turn lane to County Highway KK to the north.

The decedent and the assisting motorist were on the center hash lines of the east bound lanes. A green 1999 GMC Sierra single cab pickup with a snowplow attached to the front was traveling parallel with a silver 2013 Ford Explorer XLT east bound on U.S. Highway 8. The weather conditions recalled by witnesses indicated a light misting rain with total darkness. The decedent was wearing a black leather jacket, blue jeans, and black cowboy boots. Both drivers of the Explorer and Sierra pickup stated they did not see the decedent in the middle of the road, and upon striking him, believed they struck a deer. Additional statements show that they were able to see the deer in the westbound lane, and two vehicles parked on the east bound shoulder with hazard lights activated. Both drivers stated they slowed down upon approach. The decedent was initially struck by the Explorer which projected him in front of the Sierra pickup, striking the plow. The decedent sustained fatal injuries and died at the scene.