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June 14, 2019

On June 14, 2019, David W. Caudell was sentenced to seven years in prison after pleading guilty on April 3, 2019 to:

- One count of **Aggravated Vehicular Homicide**, a second degree felony; and
- One count of **Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of a Listed Controlled Substance or a Listed Metabolite of a Controlled Substance**, a first degree misdemeanor.

On May 3, 2018 at approximately 7:40am, a traffic accident occurred on State Route 84 in Harpersfield Township. Caudell was driving westbound and travelled left of center into the path of an oncoming eastbound vehicle driven by Samuel V. Hejduk of Madison. Caudell's vehicle travelled off the south side of the roadway where it struck Mr. Hejduk's vehicle head-on. Mr. Hejduk sustained fatal injuries as a result of the crash.

It was discovered through toxicology testing that Caudell was under the influence of Cocaine and a Cocaine metabolite at the time of the accident.

Ashtabula County Common Pleas Court Judge Marianne Sezon sentenced Caudell to **seven years** in prison. Caudell faced a maximum of **eight years** in prison **under Ohio law**. Judge Sezon suspended Caudell's driver's license for the remainder of his lifetime.

On behalf of my office and all of law enforcement, I would like to extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Hejduk. I would like to thank the Ohio Highway Patrol, the Geneva Police Department, and the Ashtabula County Coroner's Office for their outstanding work in investigating this case.

Very truly yours,

*Nicholas A. Iarocci*

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