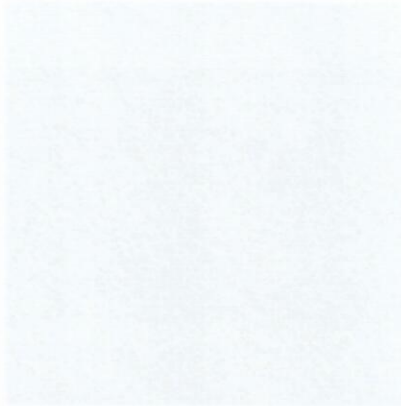


https://www.heraldstandard.com/news/local_news/dunbar-man-sentenced-to-house-arrest-for-fatal-accident/article_c8d57d53-c360-5d00-b407-85f319d2e568.html

Dunbar man sentenced to house arrest for 2013 fatal accident

By Mark Hofmann mhofmann@heraldstandard.com Oct 30, 2018 Updated Oct 30, 2018



Kenney

John F. Brothers | Herald-Standard

A Dunbar man was sentenced to intermediate punishment and house arrest in a 2013 crash that killed a Connellsville woman.

After hearing arguments over whether Ethan Kenney, 23, should go to prison for the June 9, 2013, vehicle crash that took the life of Catherine “Cat” Healy, 19, of Acme, Fayette County Judge Steve Leskinen said he decided to “do what’s the most constructive.” Leskinen sentenced Kenney to five years of intermediate punishment with 18 months on house arrest with electronic monitoring.

Healy was the passenger in the vehicle driven by Kenney, who hit a guardrail and then fled the scene after emergency medical personnel arrived, but before police came. Law enforcement officers found him a short time later.

Along with his guilty plea to accidents involving death or personal injury, Kenney, 23, also pleaded guilty to homicide by vehicle and various traffic citations.

As part of the plea agreement, prosecutors dismissed charges of homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence, driving under the influence and citations related to alleged drinking.

Friends and family of Healy provided impact statements prior to the sentencing.

Hope Richey, Healy's older sister, referred to Kenney as an "unremorseful, selfish and entitled" person who took her sister away from her. She said Kenney's actions have "horribly altered" their family.

"You took from me what you didn't have the right to steal," Hope Richey said. "And you stole from her the chance to save her life."

Hope Richey asked Leskinen to give Kenney five years in prison because that was how long the friends and family waited for his sentencing.

Holly Healy, the mother of Cat Healy, said she didn't have a statement prepared, but wanted to show the compassion that her daughter had when she addressed Kenney.

"Listen, honey, you got to be humble," she said of Kenney's role in her daughter's death. "Face it, and you'll come out of it a better man. It's not too late."

In August, Kenney's attorney, Samuel Davis, asked to postpone the sentencing so he could prepare an argument that his client should be permitted to serve intermediate punishment on the charge of accidents involving death or personal injury. Davis contended a mandatory sentencing provision for the charge is unconstitutional.

He said the specific charge is not one that prohibits a person from admission into intermediate punishment.

Assistant District Attorney Meghann Mikluscak argued that the statute required imprisonment, not home confinement.

In foregoing a prison sentence, Leskinen said he took into account evidence in the five-plus years since the crash occurred, Kenney did not commit any additional crimes, bettered himself educationally and has grown up.

"Nothing that I do or (Kenney) does at this point will bring Cat back," Leskinen said.

Holly Healy doubled over and cried during the sentencing, some of Cat Healy's loved ones walked out of the courtroom.

Leskinen said Kenney will be closely supervised while serving his sentence and warned Kenney to not test him because any serious violation will land him in prison for 15 years.

“He will not be given any breaks while under my supervision,” Leskinen said.

