



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Dave Harris

Chief Deputies
Doug Raynaud
Annette Rees
Marlisa Ferreira

Bureau of Investigation
Lt. David Hutchinson
Lt. Froilan Mariscal

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 7, 2017
Re: Kathryn Patrice Esquivel
Manslaughter probation sentence

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Kathryn Patrice Esquivel, age 39, of Turlock, was granted probation after being convicted of vehicular manslaughter. Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

On March 18, 2015, Esquivel went bar-hopping to celebrate her husband Raul's 39th birthday along with her brother-in-law Javier. While driving home to Turlock on Highway 99, Esquivel got into a heated argument with her husband and began driving at speeds over 100 miles per hour. When both Raul and Javier yelled at her to slow down, pull over and stop, Esquivel suddenly turned the steering wheel sharply, causing their vehicle to cross the freeway, strike the concrete median, cross back again and roll down an embankment, coming to rest on its roof. Raul was declared dead at the scene. Javier Esquivel was also injured.

Despite having been the "designated driver," a chemical test of Esquivel's blood showed an alcohol content of 0.08% along with evidence that she had ingested methamphetamine and the prescription opioid drug "Tramadol." When being booked into the jail, methamphetamine was found in her pants pocket.

At the time of the crash, Esquivel was driving on a suspended license. While this case was pending, Esquivel was charged with a new case of driving with a suspended license.

On March 15, 2017, Esquivel pled no contest to gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, driving under the influence causing injury and with a blood alcohol content over .08%, possession of methamphetamine, and driving on a suspended license. She faced a maximum potential prison sentence of ten years and eight months.

Judge Linda McFadden determined that Esquivel was suitable for probation, suspended a state prison sentence and ordered Esquivel to serve one year in jail.

Deputy District Attorney Bianca Yip prosecuted the case for the People. Her position is funded by a grant provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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