



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Mandan Man Pleads Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on January 21, 2009, **Delmar M. Sheppard**, 29, of Mandan, formerly of Mandaree, North Dakota, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland to a charge of involuntary manslaughter and a charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

The incident occurred in May 2008 on County Highway #23 between New Town and Parshall. **Sheppard** was driving a motor vehicle eastbound when his vehicle crossed the center line into westbound traffic, crashing into three westbound vehicles. The driver of the first westbound vehicle swerved to the right to avoid a head-on collision with **Sheppard**, but the vehicle was side-swiped by **Sheppard's** vehicle and went into the ditch and overturned. The passenger was ejected and died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. The driver suffered serious bodily injury. The second westbound vehicle, which was occupied by one adult and three children, was also side-swiped by **Sheppard's** vehicle, went into the ditch and overturned, but no one was seriously injured. The third westbound vehicle, which was occupied by two adults and three children, moved to the

left and was side-swiped by **Sheppard's** vehicle, but the third vehicle was able to stay on the road and no one was seriously injured. **Sheppard's** blood alcohol content was .12%. An analysis of a blood sample drawn from **Sheppard** also demonstrated that **Sheppard** had ingested a prescription medication that was located within his motor vehicle but was prescribed to another person.

The charge of involuntary manslaughter carries a statutory maximum penalty of eight years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. The charge of assault resulting in serious bodily injury carries a statutory maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Three Affiliated Tribes Police Department and Criminal Investigations Division, the North Dakota Highway Patrol and the Mountrail County Sheriff's Office.

Sentencing for **Sheppard** has been scheduled for April 6, 2009, in United States District Court in Minot, North Dakota, at 10:00 a.m.

Assistant United States Attorney Rick Volk is prosecuting the case.

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