



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Information

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School Bus Driver Sentenced to 3 Years Probation and Alcohol Treatment

Burton Carpenter DOB 03/19/56 was sentenced in Adams County Court to three years probation for DUI and child abuse for driving a school bus full of football players while drunk.

He also must enter a minimum two-year intensive alcohol abuse rehabilitation program at a residential treatment facility by Dec. 31 and perform 100 hours of community service. Carpenter also was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and court costs.

Carpenter was arrested Sept. 21 with a blood alcohol content of .213. He was transporting members of the Mountain Range High School freshman football team from a game at Prairie View High School when his bus hit a parked vehicle in front of Mountain Range High School in Westminster.

Carpenter was charged with DUI, DUI per se, 37 counts of child abuse, five counts of reckless endangerment, careless driving, failing to drive in a single lane and failing to stop a school bus at a railroad crossing.

He pleaded guilty Monday to one count of DUI and one count of knowing or reckless child abuse involving all 37 student athletes on the bus.

Bond was set at \$4,000 but Carpenter has remained in jail since his arrest. Adams County Jeffrey Romeo did not impose any additional jail time but said Carpenter would serve a two-year jail sentence if he fails to comply with terms of probation.

The judge called Carpenter a "rolling time bomb going down the road."

"I am thankful that no one was seriously injured or died as a result of the defendant's decision to drink and drive," said District Attorney Dave Young. "His blood alcohol content was nearly three times the legal limit. He put the lives of the student athletes and everyone else who was on that bus in danger, as well as other innocent people who were on the road with him."

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