



NEWS RELEASE

March 22, 2019
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Mother Sentenced to 20 Years in DUI Crash that Killed her Infant Daughter

Charlene Sunshine Munoz-Trujillo pleaded guilty to child abuse resulting in death and was sentenced to 20 years in prison Friday in a crash that killed her 11-month old daughter last year in Commerce City.

Munoz (DOB 12/09/81) was driving drunk with a blood alcohol content of 0.214 when she plowed into a parked truck in the 6500 block of East 80th Avenue on July 28, 2018. Eleven-month-old Isabella Jimenez sustained catastrophic head injuries in the crash and was pronounced dead at Children's Hospital. The infant was not in a car seat at the time of the crash and was ejected from the vehicle.

Witnesses said she grabbed the baby, "threw" her into her Mercedes and drove off in a rage after an argument with the baby's father. Moments later, she crashed into a parked Dodge Ram truck loaded with wood, bricks and tools. The impact forced the truck forward and off the road where it struck a light pole before coming to rest in the front yard of a residence. The Mercedes continued across 80th Avenue and struck a power pole.

The Colorado State Patrol estimated that she was driving at least 67 mph at the time of the crash. The speed limit was 30 mph.

"This was not an accident," Deputy District Attorney Christopher Rhamey said at the sentencing hearing. "She was driving recklessly at a minimum speed of 67 miles per hour in a 30 mph zone down a one lane street. She didn't put her child in a car seat. That baby was free-floating in that vehicle when it crashed. Twenty years is not a sentence that embodies the loss of a life so young."

Munoz was charged with child abuse resulting in death (F2), vehicular homicide (F3) and DUI. She pleaded guilty to child abuse resulting in death as part of a plea agreement that capped her sentence at 20 years.

Adams County District Judge Roberto Ramirez accepted the plea and imposed the 20-year sentence after rejecting an objection to the plea by the baby's father, who said it was an accident

and that Munoz never intended to cause the death of their child.

Ramirez said that Munoz chose to take her child from a caregiver who was protecting her and chose to get behind the wheel while intoxicated. "This was not merely an accident," the judge said. "You chose to do those things. That little girl had no choice and you killed her."

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