



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to 12 Years for Vehicular Homicide while High on Methamphetamine

Eric Jacob Baum was sentenced to 12 years in prison Tuesday for vehicular homicide while driving high on methamphetamine.

Baum (DOB 04/05/83) was driving westbound on east 120th Avenue in Adams County on June 6, 2019, when he ran off the road and crashed a 1986 Chevrolet camper van into two trees and a large boulder, killing his passenger, Timothy Joseph Powers, 61. Baum told police Powers was driving, although Powers was found pinned in the front passenger seat. Baum admitted that they had been smoking methamphetamine and were speeding as much as 80 mph before the crash.

At the time of the fatal crash Baum was on probation for a theft case in Greeley and his driving privileges were revoked as a habitual offender through 2023.

He pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide (F3).

At Tuesday's sentencing hearing, Senior Deputy District Attorney Christopher Rossi said it was "horrific crash" and it was fortunate that no other traffic was on the road at the time or other innocent drivers could have been injured or killed. He asked for a 12-year prison sentence which Adams County District Judge Caryn Datz imposed.

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