



JULIA R. BATES

LUCAS COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

LUCAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 700 ADAMS STREET, SUITE 250, TOLEDO, OHIO 43604-5659

TELEPHONE (419) 213-4700 / FACSIMILE (419) 213-4595

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CONTACT

Steve Slivka
Public Information Officer
419-213-4848

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTIAN FOUND GUILTY IN DEADLY CENTENNIAL TERRACE CRASH

TOLEDO, Ohio – Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney Julia R. Bates announced that Lucas County Common Pleas Judge Dean Mandros found Donald Christian guilty of two counts of aggravated vehicular homicide and two counts of operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs, alcohol or both following a bench trial in case CR2025-00801.

On Saturday, July 13, 2024, Christian struck Donald and Therese Fern in the southbound lane of Centennial Road as they crossed the street after leaving a concert at Centennial Terrace in Sylvania. Both suffered serious injuries, were taken to a Lucas County hospital and later died there.

Responding officers smelled alcohol on Christian when they made contact with him. Dr. Alfred Staubus, a retired pharmacy professor from The Ohio State University and an expert in forensic toxicology of alcohol and other drugs, testified that based on his analysis of Christian's blood, he estimated Christian consumed about 13 standard alcoholic beverages.

"This was a heartbreaking and completely preventable tragedy," Prosecutor Bates said. "Two people lost their lives because of one man's decision to drink and drive. Our office will continue to hold impaired drivers accountable for the devastation they cause. I hope this verdict brings a measure of peace to the Fern family."

Sentencing is set for Dec. 30, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom seven of the Lucas County Courthouse.

Assistant prosecutors Angelina Wagner and Charles Hall led the case for the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office.

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