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Akron Woman Sentenced to Mandatory Prison for Causing Deadly Crash

AKRON, Ohio (Wednesday, March 16, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Jessica Francis, 23, of Rocky Brook Drive in Akron, was sentenced to two years in prison. Francis' blood alcohol content was nearly three times the legal limit when she drove drunk, crashed, and killed Haley Hopkins, who was a passenger in the car.

Francis' driver's license was also suspended for life.

"This is a tragic case where a drunk driver killed their own passenger. There are no limits to the trauma and destruction driving under the influence can cause," said Deputy Chief Counsel Margaret Scott. "Our sympathies are with Haley's family and we can only hope that this sentence, although it is shorter than we requested, gives them some measure of comfort."

On February 3, 2016, Francis pled guilty to the following charges:

- Aggravated Vehicular Homicide – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Operating a Vehicle While Impaired – a misdemeanor of the 1st degree

On July 31, 2015, Francis was speeding, lost control of the vehicle, went off road, and struck several trees. Cuyahoga Falls police determined Francis was intoxicated while driving the vehicle, with a blood alcohol content nearly three times the legal limit. The passenger, 21-year-old Haley Hopkins, died in the crash.