

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

October 29, 2012

Pickens Man Sentenced on Felony Driving Under The Influence, Resulting in Death

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that MICHAEL WAYNE LYLES, age 60, pled guilty on October 25, 2012 to one count of Felony Driving Under The Influence, Great Bodily Injury R and one count of Felony Driving Under the Influence with Death, and was sentenced to ten years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable D. Garrison Hill. Lyles will have to serve at least 85 % of the ten year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Lisa Bentley established that on April 3, 2011, Lyles crossed over SC 123 after failing to yield to traffic on SC 123 colliding into a car driven by Christopher Townsend. The wreck occurred at 11:30 AM on that Sunday morning and SLED analysis showed Mr. Lyles's blood alcohol level was .23% at the time of the wreck. Also inside the Townsend car was Mr. Townsend's three year old son and wife Jasmine who was 29 weeks pregnant with their baby daughter. Mrs. Townsend suffered severe injuries and the unborn child ultimately died as a result of the crash.