

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-467-8647
Telefax: 864-467-8610



Greenville County Courthouse
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

December 15, 2020

Greenville Man Sentenced on Felony Driving Under The Influence Resulting in Death and Two Counts of Felony Driving Under the Influence with Great Bodily Injury Results

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that DANIEL LEE PEASE, age 40, pled guilty on December 10, 2020 to Felony Driving Under The Influence with Death Results and two counts of Felony Driving Under the Influence with Great Bodily Injury Results. PEASE was sentenced by the Honorable Letitia Verdin to twenty (20 years) on the Felony DUI with Death Results and five (5) years each on the Felony DUI with Great Bodily Injury Results charges, for a total of 30 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Marcus Smith, established that on December 5, 2018, DANIEL LEE PEASE was traveling on Wade Hampton Boulevard in Greer, headed toward Taylors, in a 2016 Honda Accord that he had stolen the same evening from the parking lot of Firehouse Subs in Greer. Joshua Burgess, age 17, his sister Lily Burgess, and their cousin Jeffrey Brooks, age 16, were also traveling on Wade Hampton Boulevard in a 2016 Toyota Corolla and were headed home after having attended Wednesday evening church services. Joshua was driving, his sister Lily was in the rear passenger side seat and their cousin Jeffrey was in the front passenger seat. They came to a stop at the red light at the intersection of Wade Hampton Boulevard and Bella Michelle Avenue when their vehicle was struck from behind by the stolen car driven by PEASE. Crash Data Retrieval system obtained from the stolen Honda shows that the PEASE had accelerated and struck the vehicle Joshua, Lily, and Jeffrey were in at a speed of 91 mph. The force from the impact was so great

that the teens' vehicle was pushed through the intersection as their vehicle rolled over 2 and ½ times and came to a stop when the vehicle struck a metal traffic light pole, with the vehicle resting upon its roof. Joshua, Jeffrey, and Lily were wearing their seatbelts, but due to the extent of the damage to the vehicle, the car had to be cut apart with the "jaws of life" tool to remove the 3 teens from the vehicle for medical attention. The driver, Joshua Burgess, 17 years old, was pronounced deceased on scene after being extracted from the vehicle by first responders. The front passenger, his 16 year old cousin, Jeffrey Brooks, was taken to the hospital with a broken foot and traumatic head/brain injury. The rear, right passenger, Lily Burgess, the 13 year old sister of Joshua, suffered a broken pelvis, broken nose and broken arm and had to endure several surgeries as well as a long stint of physical therapy. The SLED toxicology report revealed that the Defendant had a .179% blood alcohol level using a sample of his blood, while the hospital screening showed a .24% blood alcohol level along with a determination that he was under the influence of amphetamines.