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Dad gets prison for fatal DWI

Auburn man is sentenced for July crash that killed his 4-year-old daughter.

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By John Stith
Staff writer

Stacey Lamphere sobbed as she spoke Tuesday of the anguish of losing her daughter, Brooke, in a drunken-driving crash last July.

"I will never get to give her my kisses that seemed to fix everything," she said. "I will not see her start her first day of school or see who she will grow up to be. Her sister, Taylor, has lost her best friend and playmate."

Minutes later, Lamphere's ex-husband, Jerry, was sentenced to state prison for driving the car that killed his 4-year-old daughter. He was sentenced to five to 10 years for the felony charge of second-degree manslaughter and one-year terms in county jail for misdemeanor counts of driving while intoxicated and endangering the welfare of a child.

Lamphere, 31, of 57 West St., was also fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay a \$270 surcharge for the felony, a \$250 driver's responsibility assessment and a \$50 DNA fee. His license was revoked for six months.

When he pleaded guilty March 6, Lamphere admitted he had been drinking the evening of July 20 and showed up at Stacey Lamphere's Seymour Street apartment about 1:30 a.m. The two argued and Stacey - not thinking her daughters were in danger - left.

Jerry Lamphere put Brooke and her half-sister, Taylor Holzhauer, who was 7 at the time, in his car to get pizza. When he returned to Seymour Street, he saw police and fled. He crashed his car on Potter Road in Throop. Brooke, who was not in a safety seat, suffered massive trauma. Taylor suffered minor injuries.

Lamphere sobbed when it was his turn to speak.

"I just want to say that if I could go back and do this over again, it would not happen," he said. "I miss my daughter. I was a good father. I tried to do everything I could for her. I wish it was me and not her," he said.

Stacey Lamphere said Jerry Lamphere will have to live with knowing he caused Brooke's death.

"As mad as we are about the situation, we have to forgive," she said. "Jerry will spend a lifetime facing himself for what has happened and knowing that our precious baby is gone. We pray and trust that God will put his hand on the sentencing for Jerry for he's been sentenced for a lifetime already."

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