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### [Former Neosho Missouri Police Officer Justin Pickup Still At Large After Warrant Issued For Supplying Alcohol To A 16 Year Old Girl Who Died In DWI Accident](#)

**NEOSHO, MISSOURI** – The Newton County Sheriff’s Department on Friday attempted to make contact with **Justin Pickup**’s attorney with the hope that the attorney could convince Pickup to turn himself in.

Pickup, 23, a former Neosho police officer, was charged Thursday with endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree by supplying alcohol to a 16-year-old girl.

The girl, Kassie Schenck, died of injuries she suffered in a traffic crash that happened on the day after Pickup allegedly purchased a pint of vodka and gave it to her. According to a probable-cause affidavit filed in Newton County Circuit Court, Schenck’s blood-alcohol content was 0.12 percent after the crash in the early morning hours of Dec. 21, 2006.

Pickup left the state soon after he was linked to Schenck’s death, authorities said.

Capt. Richard Leavens, with the Sheriff’s Department, said, “We tried to contact his attorney today (Friday) to see if he could convince Pickup to turn himself in.” But, the attorney was not available.

“We plan to work through his attorney if we can,” he said. “If we can’t, we have some good ideas about where we can find him (Pickup).”

Pickup’s attorney is C. Ross Rhoades, of Neosho. It is believed that Pickup is in Oklahoma, Leavens said.

While authorities on Friday were attempting to bring Pickup in, the family was expressing relief over the filing of the charge.

Lisa Hatfield, of Granby, the girl’s aunt, said waiting for the charge to be filed has been difficult for the family.

“I’m glad the public is finally hearing his name — Justin Pickup,” Hatfield said. “It’s time for the truth to come out and for him to be held responsible, and stop running.”

Hatfield said that while Schenck’s parents are relieved that Pickup has been charged, it is as if an old

wound has been reopened.

“The pain is all being brought to the surface again,” Hatfield said. “The family is reliving it all over again.”

Hatfield said family members are also angered that Pickup will face a misdemeanor charge.

“If the penalties are not stiff enough, it will make it even harder to get through this,” she said.

Leavens said the attorney general’s office has assured the Sheriff’s Department that it can extradite Pickup on a misdemeanor charge.

The charge against Pickup was filed Thursday by the office of Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon. The state office was appointed by the court to determine if charges should be filed and to prosecute any ensuing charges. The Newton County prosecutor, Scott Watson, recused himself from the matter because of a conflict of interest.

A warrant for Pickup’s arrest was issued Thursday. Bond was set at \$5,000.

A Sheriff’s Department investigation of the matter shows that Pickup had a relationship with Schenck. Records show Pickup told authorities he had a close relationship with Schenck and feelings for her, but did not pursue them because of her age. He did admit, according to an affidavit, that he had seen the girl Dec. 20 and had talked to her on the telephone for the last time at 3:45 a.m. on Dec. 21.

The charge

Endangering the welfare of a child in the second degree is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

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**Oak Brook Illinois Police Officer Randy Mucha** - so bad that he and Oak Brook get their very own BCN categories (see above).

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