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Slugline	Driver in DWI case charged with murder
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*If convicted, Kristian Kemp could face 15 to 25 years in prison for the death of a Henrietta teen.*

**By ERIC WALTER / [ewalter@mpnewspapers.com](mailto:ewalter@mpnewspapers.com)**

A Brighton man is facing second-degree murder charges for allegedly driving drunk and killing a Henrietta teen.

A grand jury indictment opened last week accused Kristian A. Kemp, 40, of 1460 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road, of "a depraved indifference to human life" in the July 21 crash that claimed the life of **Matthew Kato**, 17, of 1460 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road in Henrietta.

It is only the third or fourth time that someone has been charged with murder in a Monroe County traffic fatality. Sandra Doorley, the assistant district attorney handling the case.

"It's not often we do charge murder," she said. But Kemp's case was considered particularly egregious, Doorley added.

According to the indictment, Kemp was allegedly driving at an "excessive rate of speed" at the time of the accident and had a pre-screen blood alcohol content of .14 percent, which is above the legal limit.

Kemp had two prior convictions in the 1980s for drinking and driving, Doorley said.

If convicted, Kemp could face a minimum of 15 years in prison and a maximum of 25, Doorley added.

Neither Kemp nor his attorney were reachable by phone in time for this article.

The indictment also charges Kemp with second-degree vehicular manslaughter in Kato's death as well as second-degree assault and second-degree vehicular assault for injuries suffered by Shawn Elliot, a passenger in Kato's car. Kemp also faces two counts of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

According to accident and arrest documents included with the indictment, Kato and Elliot were traveling west on Lehigh Station Road when they were hit broadside by Kemp at the intersection of Beckwith Road.

Deputies said Kemp displayed slurred, sometimes incomprehensible speech and smelled strongly of alcohol.

Despite being rushed to Strong Memorial Hospital, Kato later died from a broken neck, a collapsed lung and injuries, according to a sheriff's accident report.

Kemp and Elliot suffered non-life threatening injuries in the crash, deputies said at the time. Kemp suffered broken legs in that crash, said Doorley.



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