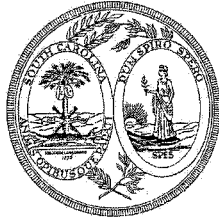


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Solicitor
W. WALTER WILKINS
PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

October 17, 2011

**GREENVILLE MAN SENTENCED ON DUI/FELONY DRIVING UNDER
THE INFLUENCE LEAVING THE SCENE OF ACCIDENT RESULTING IN
DEATH**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that BILLY JOE HANNAH, age 34, pled guilty on October 13, 2011 on the charges of Felony Driving Under the Influence Resulting In Death, a violation of South Carolina Code § 56-05-2945 and Leaving the Scene of an Accident involving Death, a violation of South Carolina Code § 56-05-1210. The Honorable Letitia Verdin sentenced BILLY JOE HANNAH to 10 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections on each charge to be served concurrently. BILLY JOE HANNAH is required to pay a mandatory minimum fine of \$10,100.00 on the Felony DUI and \$10,100.00 on the Leaving the Scene charge. BILLY JOE HANNAH will have to serve at least 85% of the ten year sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

Evidence presented at trial by Assistant Solicitor Sara Lee Drawdy established that on January 23, 2011, BILLY JOE HANNAH drove his Lexus SUV off the right side of North River Road in Greenville County and down a steep embankment striking a number of trees. A motorist, traveling on North Road noticed the vehicle and stopped to investigate. Upon reaching the vehicle, the motorist found the deceased passenger, James Scott Sullivan, in the passenger seat. An Investigation by the South Carolina Highway Patrol determined that BILLY JOE HANNAH was operating the vehicle at the time of the accident. Toxicology tests of BILLY JOE HANNAH's blood found it to contain Marijuana and a BAC (blood alcohol content) of 0.111%.