

## Ozark man pleads guilty in fatal crash

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An Ozark man pleaded guilty Monday to manslaughter in an alcohol-related crash that left his friend dead.

Adam Matthew Brockett, 27, of Dale County Road 20, originally faced a reckless murder charge, but according to a statement from Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams, Brockett agreed to the lesser manslaughter charge when he entered blind

plea at the Dale County Courthouse.

Circuit Court Judge P.B. McLaughlin Jr. will sentence Brockett at a later date. He faces two to 20 years for the class B felony. He originally faced 10 to 99 years or life in prison for the reckless murder charge.

Brockett's friend, Angela Krystal Piasecki, died in the Oct. 19, 2008 crash. The crash happened shortly after the two had left a party where they were celebrating Piasecki's 24th birthday.

Brockett was arrested and charged with murder after the vehicle he was driving left Dale County Road 20, just east of Newton, killing Piasecki. Brockett was released from custody the same day as the crash on a \$25,000 bond.

Piasecki died about an hour after the wreck. Brockett suffered multiple fractures, including a potentially serious fracture in his back.

According to Adams' statement, the crash

was investigated by the Alabama State Troopers, who determined Brockett's blood alcohol level was .135 at the time of the crash. The legal BAC level in the Alabama is .08.

The investigation also showed Brockett's vehicle was traveling about 84 mph when it struck several trees after leaving the roadway.

Brockett and Piasecki were wearing seat belts during the crash, which state troopers said happened around 4:20 a.m.