

# Fatal

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Smith also barred Knight from having contact with any of her children, or their friends traveling inside the vehicle, if she were to post bail.

Adams told the court that Knight's children injured in the crash are in the care of the Dale County Department of Human Resources and relatives.

Trooper Trey Langham testified at Knight's preliminary hearing how the single-vehicle crash happened around 6:55 p.m. May 9, about 3 miles east of Geneva on County Road 89.

Langham said he learned the vehicle was coming from Midland City and headed south toward Florida when the crash occurred.

Langham said blood test results show Knight tested positive for being under the influence of four controlled substances, including amphetamines, diazepam (otherwise known as valium and tramadol) and prescription pain medication.

Langham said one of Knight's children, a 14-year-old boy, told troopers his mother was a drug user and had taken more drugs (prescription) than usual on the day of the crash.

"He said she started acting all geeked out," Langham said. "He said they nearly wrecked multiple times that day and that they had pleaded for her to slow down."

Langham also testified how the children told troopers they saw Knight "constantly sending and

receiving text messages" on the day of the crash.

## The crash

Trooper Adam Robinson, a state highway patrol traffic homicide investigator, testified how the crash occurred at a curve in the roadway.

He also said their investigation revealed Knight was traveling 65 mph at five seconds before the crash, which was 20 mph over the posted speed limit on a county road.

Robinson also talked to Knight at Flowers Hospital, where she initially told troopers she had tried to avoid a red truck in her lane of travel when the crash occurred. But Robinson said she later told them she made that story up and there was no other vehicle.

Langham said one of Knight's children in the vehicle, a 14-year-old boy, told him where everyone sat in the 2003 Chevrolet Avalanche at time of the crash.

Langham said two children sat in the front passenger seat, one of whom was

left seriously injured with a broken pelvis, bruised lung and a concussion.

Langham said there were three more children riding in the bed of the truck, including Zyrion Tucker.

"She was just in the bed of the truck with no restraint," Langham said.

Langham said Zyrion Tucker was ejected from the bed of the truck during the crash.

Two 14-year-old boys also were sitting in the bed of the truck at the time of the crash, which left one of them seriously injured. Langham testified how one 14-year-old suffered multiple broken bones around his face, along with other areas of his body.

Robinson said Knight told him her daughter who died was buckled up in the back seat and must have crawled into the bed of the pickup truck while they were traveling before the crash.

During cross examination by attorney Amanda Smith, who represented Knight, Robinson said he was told by Knight she had prescriptions for the medi-

cations, but she did not mention an amphetamine prescription.

According to the highway patrol report, the children

in the vehicle were aged 22 months, 3, 10, 12 and 13, and two 14-year-olds, along with the 4-year-old girl who died.