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Gilley Charged with Fourth Murder

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Editor

A fourth murder charge has been filed against David Alton Gilley in connection with a wreck that occurred northeast of Samson on July 9. The murder charge is for the death of the unborn child of Beverly Lynn Bedssole.

"If he were not prosecuted for this then I feel like he is getting away with a free murder just because the baby wasn't born yet," said Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams. "This child will never see the light of day because of Mr. Gilley's actions."

The accident, which occurred during the early afternoon hours of Saturday, July 9, involved 10 people and two vehicles that resulted in four deaths now that the fourth murder charge has been filed. Gilley was the driver of a Ford Aerostar van that failed to stop at a stop sign at the intersection of Geneva County Road 43 and Round About Road. Gilley's van ran into a 2003 Chevy Avalanche driven by Cathy Mae Ansley, 45, of Florida.

Gilley, 30, is being charged with assault first due to the injuries suffered by Johnnie Manning, 42, of

Samson who was riding in Gilley's vehicle. He is also being charged with second degree assault for injuries that Ansley suffered.

First Appearance Hearing and Attorney's Appointed

Gilley appeared for a first appearance hearing on Thursday, July 14 where he was given a \$150,000 bond for the deaths of his four-year-old son David Eric Gilley, three-year-old Kayla Nicole Baker and 23-year-old Beverly Lynn Bedssole.

In addition to the bond being set by Geneva County District Judge Charlie Fleming, attorneys were appointed later in the day. Serving as counsel for Gilley are Geneva attorneys John Knowles and Lee Knowles.

Preliminary Hearing Held

A preliminary hearing was held for Gilley on Tuesday, August 1 in front of Judge Fleming. The information provided led to the case being turned over to the Geneva County Grand Jury on August 3.

Alabama State Trooper Kevin Cook was the only witness in the preliminary hearing. He testified that when he questioned Gilley, he admitted to drinking a

12-ounce beer around 9 a.m. on the morning of the accident and then traveled to a residence in Sellersville. From there Gilley and four passengers were driving on Round About Road enroute to Enterprise.

Cook said that Gilley stated that "the stop sign came up on him." He also stated that Gilley was given a toxicology test at 9 p.m. and the blood alcohol level was 0.04, half the limit considered driving under the influence but several hours after the accident. Cook also said that physical evidence and comments by two witnesses indicated that Gilley was the driver of the vehicle.

"The Grand Jury was presented this case and they felt like there was enough evidence to charge Mr. Gilley with a fourth murder charge," said Adams. There is no fetal protection bill currently according to Adams. "An effort is being made to get a bill passed for fetal protection due to cases like the one involving Scott Peterson in California."

Adams has his own feelings on the situation. "I have no doubt this is a viable life. The mother was seven months pregnant at the time of the wreck. This child should receive the same justice as anyone else."



Fourth Murder Charge Filed Against Gilley

David Alton Gilley was charged in the past week with another count of murder. The murder charge is for the death of the unborn child of Beverly Lynn Bedssole who was also killed in the crash. The accident involved two vehicles including this Ford Aerostar van that was driven by Gilley. Gilley is currently out on bond and there is no word of when his case will take place on the court docket.