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NEWS RELEASE

NO CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED IN TRAFFIC CRASH IN MARSHAN TOWNSHIP THAT RESULTED IN A FATALITY AND INJURIES

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that no criminal charges will be filed in connection with the traffic crash on September 6, 2012 in Marshan Township, Dakota County which resulted in the death of 16-year-old Madeline Rose Sake and injuries to three other teenagers.

At approximately 7:50 p.m. on September 6, 2012, Dakota County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a head-on collision that occurred on Lewiston Boulevard which is a gravel road in Marshan Township. From the investigation, it was learned that a group of teens from Hastings High School were at the home of 18-year-old Blake Allen Beissel located a short distance from the crash site. Mr. Beissel left with two other teenagers to go to a store in Hastings. Madeline Sake arrived at Mr. Beissel's home after he had left, stayed for a short period of time and then left again. She was driving a 2003 Kia Spectra. For unknown reasons, Ms. Sake's vehicle began to cross the center line and drift into the oncoming traffic lane as she approached a hill on Lewiston Boulevard. As she crested the hill, she collided with a 1997 Chevrolet pickup truck driven by Blake Beissel who was returning to his home.

The crash reconstruction report by the Minnesota State Patrol noted that there were indications that Blake Beissel had braked and pulled to the right to try to avoid the crash prior to the impact. The speed limit on this roadway is 55 miles per hour. It was estimated that Ms. Sake's vehicle was traveling at approximately the speed limit at the time of the crash. In addition to the death of Ms. Sake, Blake Beissel suffered injuries that required his hospitalization, including a broken leg. Two other teenagers, Derrick Niebur (age 18) and a 17-year-old girl who were riding in Mr. Beissel's vehicle were treated and released for minor injuries.

Backstrom indicated that no evidence of the use of alcohol, drugs or cell phones by either of the drivers involved in this crash was found.

Backstrom expressed his sympathy to the family and friends of Madeline Sake for their great loss and his hope that Mr. Beissel and the others injured in this crash can recover from their injuries and the trauma associated with this incident.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.