



OFFICE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Emmanuel C. Nneji, District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sajaa S. Ahmed

saah@co.ulster.ny.us

(845) 380-5038

January 17, 2025

**RYAN MAXWELL SENTENCED FOR FRAUD RELATED TO SAUGERTIES FATAL
HIT-AND-RUN DEATH OF STARLLIE SWONYOUNG**

Kingston, NY—On January 17, 2025, Ryan Maxwell, age 43, of Malden, was sentenced to 3 years' probation before the Honorable Bryan E. Rounds in Ulster County Court. His wife, Lacy Maxwell, age 43, was sentenced in December 2024 to 2 1/3-7 years in prison. These sentences are in connection to the fatal hit-and-run that killed 21-year-old Starllie Swonyoung, of Saugerties.

Lacy Maxwell pleaded guilty in August 2024 to Leaving the Scene of that accident which resulted in Starllie's death; she also pleaded guilty to the felony of Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree. Her husband, Ryan Maxwell, pleaded guilty to Insurance Fraud in the Fifth Degree for trying to help her in misleading the insurance company and covering up the actual cause of the damage to their car.

On January 10, 2024, Starllie and a friend were walking on Route 9W at around 5:10 p.m. when she was struck by a 2021 Subaru driven by Lacey Maxwell. Ms. Maxwell then fled the scene and did not stop to render care and aid or to report the incident as the law requires for every incident with a vehicle involving injury or property damage. The next day, with the help of her husband, Ryan Maxwell, she staged an accident to account for the damage sustained to the vehicle, and then submitted a claim to their insurance company.

A thorough investigation by the joint collaboration of the Saugerties Police Department and New York State Police with assistance from the Saugerties and Malden West Camp Fire Departments, along with leads from the community led to the arrests and charges.

Saugerties Police Chief KJ Swart said, "Now that the final sentencing surrounding the terrible and needless loss of Starllie Swonyoung has come to a close, hopefully her family and friends can begin the healing process. Cases such as this demonstrate the corroborative investigative efforts of the public with Ulster County's law enforcement agencies. It is with their tireless efforts we were able to successfully conclude the investigation arresting those responsible for her death, and the attempted coverup."

District Attorney Emmanuel C. Nneji said, "No sentence will ever bring back the victim or replace the loss for their families and loved ones. We must act to prevent these hurtful



OFFICE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Emmanuel C. Nneji, District Attorney

and painful experiences from reoccurring. Vigorous prosecution is a given when it happens, but I'd rather not have such irretrievable loss of life in the first place."

Deputy Chief ADA Derhannesian prosecuted the case. Defendant Lacy Maxwell was represented by Kingston attorney Tom Melanson and Ryan Maxwell was represented by Mikael Cohn.

###