

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Milton Woman Pleads Guilty and Receives Sentence
For Vehicular Homicide and Reckless Driving**

State vs. Kendall Elizabeth Texter

May 23, 2019 – Kendall Elizabeth Texter, 19, pled guilty to homicide by vehicle in the first degree, three counts of reckless driving, two counts of serious injury by vehicle, speeding, improper passing, and possession of marijuana. Judge David Cannon, Jr., sentenced Texter to 15 years, with 90-120 days to be served in confinement at the probation detention center. The sentence also included a \$1,000 fine and 2,000 hours of community service.

On November 2, 2017, at approximately 12:30 p.m., the defendant caused a head-on collision that killed Mary Francis “Fran” Griffin, 64, of Woodstock. The accident occurred in front of a horse farm on East Cherokee Highway in unincorporated Woodstock. Griffin was on her way to pick up her grandchild, while the defendant was headed home after attending class at Kennesaw State University. Evidence revealed that the defendant was speeding (78 mph in a 45 mph zone) and passing vehicles on the double yellow line in a no-passing zone.

Griffin suffered serious internal and external injuries and tragically died nine days after the accident.

During the non-negotiated plea hearing, Assistant District Attorney David Holmes recommended a sentence of 10 years to be served in prison and argued that the loss of life, coupled with the manner of driving, warranted a serious prison sentence.

“This situation was a tragedy; the defendant took an innocent life because of a selfish, needless decision to drive recklessly,” said Holmes. “We hope to deter this sort of driving in Cherokee County. We want all of our citizens to make it home each and every night safely to their families.”

At the plea hearing on May 14, friends and family provided victim impact statements in person and in writing. Griffin had retired after a career as a paralegal and was enjoying spending time with her husband, two children, and four grandchildren. Impact statements commented on her Christian faith, nurturing nature, strength and compassion, and how her death has left a hole in their lives. Griffin was known affectionately as “Granny Fran” because she was always taking care of someone or something.

The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.

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