



# Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

## David Leyton, Prosecutor



### PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** February 27, 2009  
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## **KELLY ARTHURS PLEADS TO SECOND DEGREE MURDER IN THE DRUNK DRIVING DEATH OF HER 8-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER**

**FLINT --** Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced today that Kelly Arthurs pled no contest this morning to Second Degree Murder in the death of her 8-year-old daughter who was the passenger in an SUV which Arthurs was driving when it crashed into a light pole on March 10, 2008.

Arthurs, 41, formerly of Fenton, also pled no contest to operating while intoxicated causing death and operating while intoxicated causing serious injury. Under the plea agreement, Arthurs will be sentenced to 10-15 years in prison and full legal and physical custody of her remaining children will be given to their father.

Prosecutor Leyton said that Arthurs was driving a Jeep Cherokee SUV on Fenton Road near McCall Road in Mundy Township when her vehicle went off the road and struck a telephone pole. A witness to the crash called 9-1-1 and police and ambulance personnel arrived on the scene. The SUV was up against a telephone pole and a young female appeared unconscious and trapped in the front passenger side of the vehicle. A rapid extraction of the girl was performed and CPR and other medical treatment was given as the girl was taken to Genesys Regional Medical Center where she was pronounced dead after resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful. The girl was later identified as 8-year-old Kelsey Caswell, one of Kelly Arthurs twin daughters.

Kelsey's twin sister was also a passenger in the vehicle at the time of the crash and was transported to Hurley Medical Center where she was diagnosed with a closed head injury. She was treated and has since been released from the hospital and is enrolled in school.

Prosecutor Leyton said this was a just resolution of the case that holds Arthurs responsible and is in the best interest of the surviving child.

"With today's plea, Arthurs will receive just and appropriate punishment for her actions," said Prosecutor Leyton. "It is our hope that the surviving twin will be able to move forward and live her life to the fullest for herself and in testament to her sister," he said.

Arthurs is scheduled to be sentenced on April 3, 2009 before Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Geoffrey Neithercut.

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