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## **Driver in Fatal 2004 Crash Receives Life Sentence after Judge Declares Him a Persistent Felony Offender**

*Michael Prindle Sentenced to 15 years to life for causing the death of Lisa Kuligowski*

The Monroe County District Attorney's Office, represented by Sandra Doorley and Timothy Proseri, successfully obtained Persistent Felony Offender status for Michael Edward Prindle for his role in the death of Lisa Kuligowski on October 9, 2004. Supreme Court, finding that Prindle "presents a danger to the community and society must be protected," declared Prindle "beyond rehabilitation" and sentenced him to 15 years to life for the crime of Manslaughter in the Second Degree for causing the deadly crash.

Prindle's conviction arose from a series of events that began on October 9, 2004, when Prindle, who had three prior felony convictions and was on parole, stole a snowplow blade from a location on Monroe Avenue and fled from police. Prindle sped his van through red lights, hit other cars, and ultimately crashed into another vehicle at the intersection of I-490 and Goodman Street. Inside that vehicle was 27-year-old Lisa Kuligowski and some of her friends who were coming back home after a baby shower. Lisa died as result of her injuries.

A jury found Prindle guilty of Murder in the Second Degree for Ms. Kuligowski's death. He was sentenced to 22 years to life in prison. In February, 2011, New York's top court reduced Prindle's murder conviction to Manslaughter in the Second Degree, finding that there was legally insufficient evidence of "depraved indifference murder," but sufficient evidence support a conviction for Manslaughter in the Second Degree.

Because of Prindle's prior criminal conduct and the nature of his actions in this case, the District Attorney's Office sought to have Prindle declared a Persistent Felony Offender, a statute in New York which permits a judge to sentence certain offenders to life in prison for convictions which otherwise would not carry life terms.

Sandra Doorley, currently Chief of Appeals in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, who originally tried Prindle, says that today's life sentence gives justice to Lisa Kuligowski. Ms. Kuligowski's untimely death was at the hands of Michael Prindle. His long history of criminal conduct and inability to rehabilitate himself require a life sentence to protect this community.