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Beach man pleads guilty in fatal accident

Driver could get 10 years for wreck that killed 19-year-old

By Scott Daugherty
The Virginian-Pilot

CHESAPEAKE

A Virginia Beach man pleaded guilty Friday to involuntary manslaughter in connection with a crash last summer that claimed the life of a friend.

Michael Dan Mills III, 22, faces up to 10 years in prison for the Aug. 14 death of 19-year-old Christina Calloway.

State guidelines recommend a sentence of about one year. He is to be sentenced Oct. 12 in Chesapeake Circuit Court.

According to court documents, Mills was driving his 2005 Ford F150 pickup about 2:30 a.m., when he veered off the road and struck a tree in the 1200 block of Blackwater Road. The crash drew the attention of a nearby resident,



VICKI CRONIS-NOHE | VIRGINIAN-PILOT FILE PHOTO

Christina Calloway was 19 at the time of the accident on Aug. 14. Mother Cindy, far left, filed a \$10.75 million suit against Michael Dan Mills III in April. Also pictured is Christina's grandmother, Kaye Peters, next to a memorial the family created for Christina.

who walked outside and found Mills lying on the ground next to his burning truck. His legs were on fire.

The man dragged Mills to safety, court documents said. Mills was eventually flown to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital with serious injuries. Calloway, who was in the truck's passenger seat, died at the scene.

Mills told medics he had been drinking before the

crash, and according to hospital records, he had a blood alcohol content of 0.17.

Calloway's family was not in court Friday when Mills entered his guilty plea while sitting in a wheelchair. Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Amy James said Calloway's mother, Cindy, told police "she did not want to see (Mills) prosecuted."

In April, Cindy Calloway filed a \$10.75 million law-

suit against Mills.

Andrew A. Protogyrou, Mills' attorney, said his client spent five weeks in the hospital after the crash and may have to undergo another surgery later this summer. He said Mills has fractures in both of his legs and can't stand up.

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