

## Fatal Auto Accidents and Grieving the Loss of a Loved One

In the United States, about every forty minutes someone is killed in an accident by a drunk driver, and the statistics show most of those drivers have driven under the influence before.

About seven years ago, in Waynesboro, Georgia, Doug Ide, forty seven years of age, was hit and killed by a man driving under the influence of drugs. Jack Bailey, twenty five years of age, was traveling 85 miles per hour and had ecstasy and methamphetamine in his system. This fatal accident was the third DUI charge for Mr. Bailey. According to the police officers on the scene of the accident, Mr. Ide failed to yield at the intersection and his alcohol level was .04, but not near the legal limit. Evidence overwhelming showed that Mr. Bailey caused Mr. Ide's death because of traveling at a high rate of speed and having drugs in his system at the time of the accident.

Jack Bailey plead guilty to a felony charge of vehicular homicide. The court dismissed the misdemeanor DUI charge and was he sentenced with ten years of probation on first offender status.

This fatal accident was not Mr. Baileys first DUI charge, it was his third. His first DUI charge was in 2000, in Columbia County, Georgia. The legal limit is .08 and Mr. Bailey blew .105 and was charged with an open container. At court he pleaded down to reckless driving and paid a fine.

Exactly one year later, Mr. Bailey was arrested the second time with a DUI in Statesboro, Georgia. Mr. Bailey plead guilty and was sentenced to one day in jail, twelve months probation and forty hours community service.

In May 2009, Mr. Bailey was released five years early from probation for the vehicular homicide charge. Since Mr. Bailey was under the first offender act, his conviction was erased from his record.

In July 2009, shortly after his release, he was charged again for DUI arrest number four. Mr. Bailey was pulled over at a road block and was arrested and charged in Wadley, Georgia. He blew a 0.95 blood alcohol level. About six weeks after his fourth DUI arrest he was released from his probation.

Doug Ide's family is still grieving after losing someone under such tragic circumstances. In my new book "Fatal Auto Accidents, Grief and Wrongful Death", I discuss some of what people experience when they suddenly lose a loved one and counseling resources available Call 1-800-503-7598 or email me at [JmurphyAssociates@gmail.com](mailto:JmurphyAssociates@gmail.com) to order a free copy of the book.