

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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**Grasing convicted of aggravated vehicular homicide; not guilty of murder in 2<sup>nd</sup> degree**

Michael Grasing, charged with driving with a blood alcohol four times the legal limit when he crashed into a Lindenhurst teenager's car, killing her, was convicted today of aggravated vehicular homicide, a "B" felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison, the most serious DWI charge in New York State, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

Grasing was found not guilty of the top count in the indictment, murder in the second degree by depraved indifference.

The 34 year old Babylon man was also found guilty of manslaughter in the second degree, a "C" felony punishable by five to fifteen years in prison, leaving the scene of an accident, aggravated driving while intoxicated, failure to stay in a designated lane and speeding.

District Attorney Spota said "I respect the verdict of the jury that has worked so diligently since the trial began in October.'

"The death of the witness who warned the defendant to slow down or he'd kill someone deprived the jury of that critical testimony. Nevertheless, the jury did find that as a result of Grasing's extreme intoxication, he left his lane of traffic while speeding and crashed into the victim, taking the life of this young, innocent woman. He then attempted to leave the scene of the crash, continuing down the highway, mowing down several traffic signs and narrowly missing pedestrians before he slammed into a pole at 16th Street".

Grasing rear-ended Brittney Walsh's car on June 24, 2012. The impact caused the victim's vehicle to flip multiple times. The 18-year old was pronounced dead at the scene.

Ms. Walsh, of Lindenhurst, graduated from high school two days before she was killed.

The defendant's blood alcohol content of .32 was from blood drawn ninety minutes after the fatal crash.