

the morning call

State police sergeant's stepson charged with homicide in crash

Probe was reopened after evidence in civil lawsuit showed that driver was drunk.

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The stepson of a state police sergeant has been charged with homicide for causing a fatal crash in Wayne County three years ago.

Dean O'Halloran, 25, of Scranton, was charged Thursday in the death of Diane Glynn, 45, of Hawley, a University of Scranton English professor and single mother of three.

State police reopened their investigation in February after an attorney for the victim's family provided evidence from a civil lawsuit that showed O'Halloran was driving drunk.

Lawyer Mark Tanner found that blood tests taken for the suspect's workers' compensation claim showed his blood-alcohol level at nearly twice the legal limit for driving a few hours after the crash.

"It restores, somewhat, the Glynn's confidence that our justice system does, in fact, dispense justice," Tanner said.

O'Halloran, then 22, drove across the center line of a road in Wayne County in April 2005 and slammed into a car driven by Glynn. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to Tanner, O'Halloran called his stepfather, state police Sgt. Michael McTavish, from the scene.

A state police trooper then arrived to investigate the crash but did not conduct a field sobriety test, nor did he ask O'Halloran to take a breath test or blood-alcohol test, Tanner told The Associated Press in February.

Tanner won a multimillion-dollar settlement in February in a civil case against the driver and his company. He then pressed the state attorney general and state police to examine how the crash investigation was handled.

State Trooper Bill Satkowski said in a news release Thursday that police did not have probable cause to ask O'Halloran to submit to a blood test because O'Halloran did not show any signs of intoxication.

Police followed up on the information provided by Tanner, leading them to file the charges, Satkowski said.

Jack Lewis, state police spokesman, said an internal investigation remains open.

It's unclear if O'Halloran has an attorney.