



**ASSISTANT
PROSECUTORS**

James A. Davey
Rhonda L. Best
Gregory A. Tapocsi
Felony Crimes

David J. Claus
Civil Litigation

Angela M. Boes
Juvenile Delinquencies

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
SENECA COUNTY**

DEREK W. DeVINE

71 S. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE #1204 · TIFFIN, OHIO 44883

419-448-4444 · TOLL FREE 888-507-6724 · FAX 419-443-7911

www.senecapros.org

**SUPPORT
STAFF**

Sharon M. Skeel
Office Administrator

Matthew C. Nofitz
Secret Service Officer

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Press Release

Case #09CR0220, State of Ohio vs. Coleman D. Flanigan

Today Coleman Flanigan, of Norwalk appeared in front of Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Steve C. Shuff and pled guilty to all four (4) counts in his indictment. Mr. Flanigan had stood accused of crashing his car into Shane Tobin, age 18, and Brett Hensinger, age 17, and then fleeing the scene on September 11, 2009. Mr. Tobin and Mr. Hensinger were within a few miles of their rural Bellevue homes after a seventy (70) mile bicycle training session that day.

Flanigan has now been convicted of two counts of Vehicular Assault, 4th degree felonies, and two counts of Failure to Stop After An Accident, 5th degree felonies. Mr. Hensinger and Mr. Tobin both suffered serious physical injuries as a result of the crash. Mr. Tobin is still in a wheel chair.

Mr. Flanigan faces a maximum of five years in prison. Seneca County Prosecutor Derek W. DeVine said, "Today Mr. Flanigan pled guilty to all of the charges and at sentencing the State will be seeking the maximum incarceration possible. Mr. Flanigan recklessly injured these young men and then left them in a field to needlessly suffer."

DeVine offered congratulations to the Ohio State Highway Patrol for its investigation into this matter. The Highway Patrol also received a significant contribution from Officer Fry of the Norwalk Police Department. Said DeVine, "Officer Fry was instrumental in quickly resolving the identity of the driver and establishing his criminal intent in this case".

Sentencing will be scheduled upon receipt of a Pre-Sentence Investigation.