

Teen charged in death can go back to school

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Lawyer says judge released her to mother

A Brentwood teenager who police say drunkenly backed over her 19-year-old boyfriend has been allowed to go home after spending the weekend in juvenile detention, her lawyer said yesterday.

Rutherford County Juvenile Court Judge Donna Scott released Paige Mackenzie Walters, 16, into the custody of her mother Monday, but the girl will not be able to go very far, Nashville attorney David Raybin said. He said Walters has permission to go to church, school and court-related activities, but that is all.

"The judge in this case has all of the discretion in the world to order that, and that certainly is well within the judge's authority, and that is fine," Raybin said. "We certainly want the child to go to school, she is an honor student at Brentwood High, and we want her to continue on with her education."

Walters was charged Thursday with vehicular homicide, drunken driving and drug possession in the death of her boyfriend, William Long McGregor of 1220 Lipscomb Drive, Brentwood.

The McGregors declined to be interviewed for this report.

According to Raybin, McGregor had gotten out of the Volvo that Walters was driving to walk back to a party the couple had previously left. To get him back in the car, Walters put the car in reverse, and she subsequently backed over McGregor as he walked along Old Fort Parkway about 2:20 a.m. Dec. 20, police said.

Raybin said his client had been drinking at the time of the incident but she was not under the influence of drugs. He said she had several pills with her, one of which she had a prescription for called Adderall.

The attorney did not say why Walters was prescribed the drug, which is sometimes part of a treatment program for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. However, he said the girl did not have the pill in its properly labeled canister.

In addition to the Adderall, Walters had more than one amphetamine in her possession, which Raybin classified as "uppers."

"I believe it was her intention to take these so she could stay awake during her exams," he said. "It certainly is improper for her to have done that."

He said there is another hearing March 8 where the results of the girl's court-ordered psychological work-up will be presented.

"I've arranged for her to be seen by a child psychiatrist, and she is receiving counseling," he said. "She is also receiving grief counseling."

Raybin said his client was "hysterical" after she found out what had happened and she is taking "full responsibility for what has happened."

Walters is not on any kind of monitoring device, Raybin said. "These charges came almost a month after it happened and she didn't try to go anywhere," he said. "The thing is that she not participate in inappropriate behavior."

Murfreesboro Police detective Brad Ballard said last week that Walters was charged after it was determined she was intoxicated at the time of the incident.

Results of the test for intoxication were not available.

Raybin said Walters turned herself in after she learned of the charges.