

Wrong-way driver Rebecca Benson released after deadly crash - WKRN News 2

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Rebecca Benson, now 25, was released from prison Friday morning.

Steffanie Leonard, 29, was hit and killed in February 2012.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Convicted wrong-way driver Rebecca Benson was released from prison Friday after serving two years for the 2012 death of 29-year-old Steffanie Leonard.



Benson, 25, is now on probation for the next eight years.

During that time, she cannot drive a car. She must also wear an alcohol-monitoring device for six months.

Also as part of her probation, Benson must speak to high school and college students three times a year for five years.



She must also perform 80 hours of community service a year for eight years.

Benson was traveling the wrong way on Interstate 65 during the early morning hours of February 22, 2012 and crashed into a vehicle driven by Leonard. She died at the scene.

Following the accident, Benson told police she thought she was in a taxi cab.

The Leonard family visited Benson in prison and was there Friday when she was released. They said she apologized for what happened.

"It felt like it just kind of completed the journey from the day of the accident to now. It's another chapter that we can close," said Rebekah, Leonard's sister.

She said they are moving forward by forgiving.

"We will never forget and we will always miss Steffanie, but we forgive her for what happened and we hope that she honors her memory. By her going out and bettering her life, she is honoring my sister and who she was. I just hope that's what she does."

In a statement released to News 2 Friday, Benson's attorney, David Raybin, said, "Ms. Benson regrets her behavior and mourns the death of Ms. Leonard. She will dedicate her life to telling other people about this tragedy so they can learn from it."

According to Benson's family, she plans to move to Kentucky permanently in the coming days.

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