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### **Driver Pleads Guilty In Connection With Fatal Sudbury Car Crash**

**WOBURN** – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan has announced that a Marlborough woman pleaded guilty today to a charge of motor vehicle homicide in connection with a two vehicle crash in Sudbury in 2011 which led to the death of an elderly woman.

Wendy Courtney, 42, of Marlborough pleaded guilty in Framingham District Court to one count of motor vehicle homicide. Framingham District Court Judge Cesar Archilla sentenced her to 2 1/2 years probation with conditions to include a 15 year loss of license and that she not drive again until she is issued a valid driver's license.

"By pleading guilty today, the defendant has admitted her responsibility for the crash which took the life of Stella Mercuri," said District Attorney Ryan. "This death would not have occurred if the defendant had been properly focused on the road ahead. This incident should serve as a reminder of how quickly a tragedy can occur when a driver is not paying attention and gets distracted."

"This was a terribly tragic crash that took the life of a 91-year-old woman," Sudbury Police Chief Scott Nix said. "I am grateful to the Middlesex District Attorney's Office for diligently bringing this case to conclusion."

According to authorities, just after 4 p.m., on December 27, 2011, Wendy Courtney was driving a car accompanied by a passenger, Stella Mercuri, 91, of Marlborough. The car Courtney was driving struck the back of a truck on Boston Post Road, (Route 20), in Sudbury. The driver of the truck was stopped on Boston Post Road in order to turn left onto Brimstone Lane. An investigation by Massachusetts State Police found no indication that Courtney applied brakes or that she tried to turn her vehicle in order to avoid the collision. Mercuri was seriously injured in the collision and died from those injuries on December 31, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Sudbury Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police.

The prosecutor assigned to the case is Assistant District Attorney Melissa Baima. The Victim Witness Advocate is Nicole Harnway.

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