

4th attorney appointed for TX man charged in fatal Jackson Co wreck

(KNZA)- A fourth attorney has been appointed to represent a Fort Worth, Texas man charged in a fatal 2023 Jackson County wreck that claimed the life of a Whiting woman.

According to court documents, a judge appointed former Jackson County Attorney Shawna Miller to represent Ayinde-Jriel James during a recent hearing after he requested to dismiss his third court-appointed attorney in the case.

James is charged with second-degree murder, driving under the influence of alcohol, possession of marijuana and reckless driving in connection with the April 2023 wreck that claimed the life of 74-year-old Melinda Wareham.

The Kansas Highway Patrol says James was traveling at excessive speeds and passing several vehicles on U.S. 75 highway before he crashed head-on into a vehicle driven by Warmham about two miles north of Holton

Miller served as Jackson County Attorney from January 2009 until resigning effective June 1st, 2022. She is now a staff attorney with a Topeka law firm.

James remains in the Jackson County Jail, held on a \$750,000 bond.

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