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PRESS RELEASE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

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*Pending charges represent accusations:
all defendants are presumed innocent unless
and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable
doubt under the United States Constitution.*

Child Dead in Plainville Crash

The driver accused of causing the crash that cost a 10-year-old his life on Rte. 1 South in Plainville last night is expected to be arraigned Monday morning at the Wrentham District Court, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W, Morrissey.

Michael Escolas, 42, of Oxford, Mass., is expected to be arraigned on charges of Motor Vehicle Manslaughter – OUI, Larceny of a Motor Vehicle, and associated charges. He remains in custody in lieu of \$25,000 cash bail.

The accusations are that Mr. Escolas stole a Jeep Cherokee belonging to a Vermont couple who had parked it outside Gillette Stadium to attend the evening’s Kenny Chesney concert. The Jeep was then driven southbound on Rte. 1 where it collided with a Nissan Altima (a rental car registered in Rhode Island) occupied by a family of six, believed to be stopped at the traffic light near the intersection with Rte. 495.

That event was followed by collisions involving three additional cars at that intersection. The Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section and Crime Scene Services Section of the Massachusetts State Police deployed to document the scene and investigate the chain of events. An assistant district attorney assigned to District Attorney Morrissey’s Motor Vehicle Homicide Unit also responded to the scene. Occupants of those cars did not require ambulance transport.

Escolas and all six members of the family were transported to area hospitals. The 10-year-old child, a son, in the Nissan did not survive. No further identifying information will be released at this time.

“Dealing with this chaotic scene and evacuating seven people to area hospitals required the help and participation of many partner agencies,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Plainville Police and Massachusetts State Police were assisted by Fire and Ambulance assets from Plainville, North Attleboro, Wrentham, Foxboro, Mansfield, and Franklin, and personnel from the Wrentham Police Department. I offer my thanks to all who responded, and my sincere condolences to the family who lost their son.”

As with all criminal defendants, the accused enjoys the Constitutional presumption of innocence unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.