

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

Kevin E. Walsh

Sheriff

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Cicero Woman Charged with Vehicular Manslaughter

Town of Cicero, New York – Onondaga County Sheriff Kevin E. Walsh reports that a Cicero woman involved in a fatal two-car crash has been charged with vehicular manslaughter

This evening, Sheriff's Detectives charged Charlene Bernet (49), of 14 Brodhead Road, with vehicular manslaughter in the 1st degree, criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 7th degree, imprudent speed, passing a stop sign and not wearing a seatbelt in connection with the April 5th crash that occurred at the intersection of South Bay Road and Whiting Road.

On April 5, 2008, at approximately 10:56 am, Bernet was operating a 1999 Jeep Cherokee traveling south on Whiting Road with her two children, Charles (7) and Raymond (4) Bernet. As Bernet approached the intersection at South Bay Road, she failed to stop at the stop sign and was struck broadside by a 2003 Ford F250 pickup truck, which was traveling southwest on South Bay Road. Bernet and her two children were transported to University Hospital, where her son Raymond later died. Bernet is alleged to have been in possession of cocaine at the time of the crash, which was recovered from her vehicle.

Bernet will be arraigned in the Town of Cicero Court this evening. Vehicular manslaughter in the 1st degree is a class C felony and criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 7th degree is a class A misdemeanor. Imprudent speed, passing a stop sign and not wearing a seat belt are violations of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

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