

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

STATE OF OHIO : **CASE NO: 24-CRM-030**

Plaintiff : **MATTHEW K. FOX, JUDGE**

vs. :

TREY J. FRECH : **SENTENCING MEMORANDUM**

Defendant :

Now comes Defendant, TREY J. FRECH, and submits the following Memorandum for this Court's consideration at sentencing.

RUDNICK, HOSEK & PENDL, LTD.
Attorneys for Defendant

/s/ Alex S. Pendl
ALEXANDER S. PENDL
Trial Attorney
I.D. No: 0093792
200 West Main Street
Greenville, Ohio 45331
(937) 547-0218
(937) 547-1591 – fax
alex@rhplawgroup.com

MEMORANDUM

On January 24, 2025, Defendant Trey Frech entered pleas of Guilty to one count of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide in violation of R.C. 2903.06(A)(2)(a), a Felony of the Third Degree, and three counts of Vehicular Assault in violation of R.C. 2903.08(A)(2)(b), each being a Felony of the Fourth Degree. The incident leading to the instant case occurred at dusk on December 22, 2023 and involved Defendant's car colliding with a horse-drawn buggy on State Route 49 as Defendant was attempting to pass another vehicle. Tragically, one of the occupants of the buggy was killed and three others sustained injuries. Defendant was transported to Lutheran Hospital via Care Flight due to his injuries. Investigation by the Mercer County Sheriff's Office revealed that Defendant's alcohol use was a factor in the crash. Defendant was originally indicted for offenses relating to both impaired driving and reckless driving, however discussions and negotiations during the pretrial process led to the State of Ohio agreeing to dismiss the impaired driving charges in exchange for Defendant pleading guilty to charges relating to reckless driving.

A court that sentences an offender for a felony shall be guided by the overriding purposes of felony sentencing. The overriding purposes of felony sentencing are to protect the public from future crime by the offender and others, to punish the offender, and to promote the effective rehabilitation of the offender using the minimum sanctions that the court determines accomplish those purposes without imposing an unnecessary burden on state or local government resources. To achieve those purposes, the sentencing court shall consider the need for incapacitating the offender, deterring the offender and others from future crime, rehabilitating the offender, and making restitution to the victim of the offense, the public, or both.

R.C. 2929.11(A). The Court has discretion as to how to comply with the overriding purposes of felony sentencing, however the Court shall consider the seriousness and recidivism factors contained in R.C. 2929.12(B)-(E). R.C. 2929.12(A). R.C. 2929.12(B)-(E) read as follows:

(B) The sentencing court shall consider all of the following that apply regarding the offender, the offense, or the victim, and any other relevant factors, as indicating that the offender's conduct is more serious than conduct normally constituting the offense:

(1) The physical or mental injury suffered by the victim of the offense due to the conduct of the offender was exacerbated because of the physical or mental condition or age of the victim.

(2) The victim of the offense suffered serious physical, psychological, or economic harm as a result of the offense.

(3) The offender held a public office or position of trust in the community, and the offense related to that office or position.

(4) The offender's occupation, elected office, or profession obliged the offender to prevent the offense or bring others committing it to justice.

(5) The offender's professional reputation or occupation, elected office, or profession was used to facilitate the offense or is likely to influence the future conduct of others.

(6) The offender's relationship with the victim facilitated the offense.

(7) The offender committed the offense for hire or as a part of an organized criminal activity.

(8) In committing the offense, the offender was motivated by prejudice based on race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

(9) If the offense is a violation of section 2919.25 or a violation of section 2903.11, 2903.12, or 2903.13 of the Revised Code involving a person who was a family or household member at the time of the violation, the offender committed the offense in the vicinity of one or more children who are not victims of the offense, and the offender or the victim of the offense is a parent, guardian, custodian, or person in loco parentis of one or more of those children.

(C) The sentencing court shall consider all of the following that apply regarding the offender, the offense, or the victim, and any other relevant factors, as indicating that the offender's conduct is less serious than conduct normally constituting the offense:

(1) The victim induced or facilitated the offense.

(2) In committing the offense, the offender acted under strong provocation.

(3) In committing the offense, the offender did not cause or expect to cause physical harm to any person or property.

(4) There are substantial grounds to mitigate the offender's conduct, although the grounds are not enough to constitute a defense.

(D) The sentencing court shall consider all of the following that apply regarding the offender, and any other relevant factors, as factors indicating that the offender is likely to commit future crimes:

(1) At the time of committing the offense, the offender was under release from confinement before trial or sentencing; was under a sanction imposed pursuant to section 2929.16, 2929.17, or 2929.18 of the Revised Code; was under post-release control pursuant to section 2967.28 or any other provision of the Revised Code for an earlier offense or had been unfavorably terminated from post-release control for a prior offense pursuant to division (B) of section 2967.16 or section 2929.141 of the Revised Code; was under transitional control in connection with a prior offense; or had absconded from the offender's approved community placement resulting in the offender's removal from the transitional control program under section 2967.26 of the Revised Code.

(2) The offender previously was adjudicated a delinquent child pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code prior to January 1, 2002, or pursuant to Chapter 2152. of the Revised Code, or the offender has a history of criminal convictions.

(3) The offender has not been rehabilitated to a satisfactory degree after previously being adjudicated a delinquent child pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code prior to January 1, 2002, or pursuant to Chapter 2152. of the Revised Code, or the offender has not responded favorably to sanctions previously imposed for criminal convictions.

(4) The offender has demonstrated a pattern of drug or alcohol abuse that is related to the offense, and the offender refuses to acknowledge that the offender has demonstrated that pattern, or the offender refuses treatment for the drug or alcohol abuse.

(5) The offender shows no genuine remorse for the offense.

(E) The sentencing court shall consider all of the following that apply regarding the offender, and any other relevant factors, as factors indicating that the offender is not likely to commit future crimes:

(1) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had not been adjudicated a delinquent child.

(2) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a criminal offense.

(3) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had led a law-abiding life for a significant number of years.

(4) The offense was committed under circumstances not likely to recur.

(5) The offender shows genuine remorse for the offense.

The Court may consider any other factor relevant to achieving the purposes and principles of sentencing. R.C. 2929.12(A).

Defendant acknowledges the great harm that was caused as a result of the commission of the offenses. One victim lost her life and three others suffered significant physical harm. Defendant in no way intends to minimize the harm suffered by the victims as a result of the offenses. Defendant would note, however, the harm suffered by the victims is only one of many factors this Court should consider. In fact, it is the only factor of the nine enumerated under R.C. 2929.12(B) that would indicate Defendant's conduct to be more serious than conduct normally constituting the offense. Defendant asserts he did not intend or expect to cause physical harm to persons or property, which is a factor suggesting the offense is "less serious" pursuant to R.C. 2929.12(C)(3). As such, seriousness factors are balanced.

Regarding recidivism, all enumerated factors under R.C. 2929.12(D) and (E) show Defendant is not likely to commit future crimes. Defendant has no prior criminal history. While alcohol was involved in the commission of the offense, Defendant has neither demonstrated a pattern of criminal offenses related to alcohol abuse nor refused treatment. To the contrary, Defendant began seeing a psychotherapist shortly before the incident and has continued attending counseling services for over a year. Defendant also quit drinking and has maintained sobriety for a significant period of time. A Treatment Summary from Michelle Phillips is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A.

Defendant's proactive approach to seeking mental health and substance use counseling before the offense occurred, as well as his dedication to continued counseling services after the incident, demonstrate that Defendant is amenable to rehabilitation. Defendant's actions after the incident, including his compliance with pretrial supervision, support the position that he is unlikely to commit future crimes. The incident, while preventable, was still an accident. Defendant poses no greater risk to the public than any other member of society. Finally, Defendant has expressed great remorse for his actions. In further support, Defendant submits herewith and incorporates by reference Eighteen (18) letters from family, friends, and community members in support of Defendant as Exhibits B through S.

In conclusion, Defendant appreciates the serious harm suffered by the victims. Defendant understands the necessity of a punishment and the Court's duty to impose a just sentence. Nevertheless, Defendant asserts the statutory seriousness factors are balanced and the recidivism factors support a more-lenient sentence. As evidenced by the character letters in Defendant's support, he clearly is valued in the community and will have a strong support system to ensure his continued compliance with this Court's sentence and the laws of the State of Ohio. Defendant therefore requests that any term of incarceration imposed by this Court be a **total aggregated sentence of less than Five (5) Years** in order to permit Defendant to petition this Court for judicial release prior to serving four years, which would be the earliest eligibility date should this Court order a sentence of five years or more. Defendant notes that a prison term is not mandatory and Defendant is eligible for a community control sanction. In the event this Court finds community control would demean the seriousness of the offense, a lengthy prison term would not be necessary when considering the overriding purposes of felony sentencing and the seriousness and

recidivism factors.

WHEREFORE Defendant respectfully requests this Court order an aggregate term of incarceration of less than Five (5) Years along with whatever fines and driver's license suspension this Court deems appropriate.

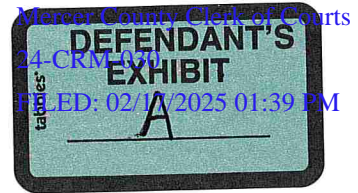
Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alex S. Pendl
ALEXANDER S. PENDL
Attorney for Defendant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Sentencing Memorandum was forwarded to Erin M. Minor, Prosecuting Attorney, via electronic mail to erinm@mercercountyohio.gov this 17th day of February, 2025.

/s/ Alex S. Pendl
ALEXANDER S. PENDL
Attorney for Defendant



Treatment Summary for Trey James Frech

Client Information:

- Name: Trey James Frech
- DOB: 11/7/1999
- Payer: UMR (formerly UMR Wausau), 30604087

Provider Information:

- Therapist's Name and Credentials: Michelle Phillips, LMHC
- License Number: NC9169 OHE2203146 IN39003980A
- Location of Service: Main Office

Dates of Service:

- Initial Assessment: 11/28/2023
- Start and End Dates of Treatment: 11/28/2023 - present; Client moved to biweekly since January 2025 and was weekly up to that point. He had zero no shows or cancellations.

Presenting Issues:

- Excessive alcohol consumption.
- Work-related stress.
- Pressure from partner and partner's mother to quit drinking.
- Grief related to the death of his grandfather.
- Anger management issues.
- Car accident while under the influence of alcohol.

Diagnoses:

- Adjustment disorder with mixed anxiety and depressed mood (F43.23).
- Alcohol use, unspecified with unspecified alcohol-induced disorder (F10.99).

Treatment Goals:

- Reduce alcohol intake to no more than two drinking days per week within 8 months. This goal was achieved and maintained. Client has reported zero drinks per week for the past 6 months. Client reports minimal to no urges to drink for the past 6 months. His updated goal regarding this presenting issue is to maintain sobriety.
- Process and begin to resolve feelings of grief associated with the death of his grandfather within 6 months. This goal is achieved.
- Develop and consistently use three new healthy coping skills to manage anger within 4-6 months.
- Develop Coping Strategies for Potential Incarceration
- Explore Healthy Relationships and Develop Adaptive Communication Strategies - Client has continually worked toward improving his communication skills to those around him especially

familial relationships and romantic relationships. The difficulty with communication prior to treatment contributed to his maladaptive use of alcohol.

Interventions Used:

- Motivational interviewing.
- Exploration of coping patterns, emotions, and relationship patterns.
- Psychoeducation.
- Cognitive restructuring.
- Mindfulness and urge surfing.
- Grief and loss work.
- Cognitive processing therapy (CPT).
- Imaginal exposure.
- Somatic experiencing.
- Self-monitoring techniques.
- Communication skills training.
- Relaxation/deep breathing exercises.
- Structured problem-solving.
- Supportive reflection.
- Symptom management.

Progress and Outcomes:

- The client made progress by acknowledging his alcohol use problem and showing willingness to reduce his alcohol consumption. He is currently sober and reports minimal urges to drink.
- He was able to identify triggers and patterns of alcohol use.
- Showed improvement in communication skills and was receptive to learning urge surfing techniques.
- Developed coping strategies for managing stress and negative emotions.
- Expressed remorse for his actions and engaged in therapy sessions actively.
- Maintained sobriety for a period and reported decreased alcohol intake prior to ceasing use.

Recommendations:

- Continue individual therapy sessions to address underlying psychological factors contributing to his substance use disorder.
- Continue exploring triggers and patterns of alcohol use and anger.
- Develop and practice new coping skills for managing negative emotions.
- Create a relapse prevention plan.
- Prepare for parentin



TRI-VILLAGE LOCAL SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 31 · New Madison, Ohio 45346-0031

Office (937) 996-1511 · Fax (937) 996-5537

Mr. Lee A. Morris, High School Principal

www.tri-village.k12.oh.us

lee_morris@tri-village.k12.oh.us

February 12, 2025

To the Honourable Judge Matthew K. Fox;

My name is Lee A. Morris and I serve as the junior high/high school principal for Tri-Village Local Schools in New Madison, OH, a position I have held since August 2013. Mr. Trey James Frech is a 2018 graduate of Tri-Village Local Schools. Trey graduated with a 3.056 grade point average, having earned 31.25 credits, 7.25 credits more than the district required 24. Over the course of his high school career, Trey missed just 14.5 days of school in his four years as a Patriot. Trey earned proficient scores or better on all of his End of Course assessments, in the areas of Algebra I, English 9, Biology, English 10, Geometry, American History, Physical Science, and American Government.

Trey was a classic small town student and athlete during his time at Tri-Village. Participating in activities such as Cross Country (1 year), Football (3), Basketball (4), Baseball (4), Peer Tutoring (2), Student Council (4), Choir (2), Trey was a student during the hours of 8am until 245pm each day, however his presence in the above-mentioned activities made him a constant cog in the wheel of our school district. Trey's peers voted him in their annual "Senior Superlatives" as having the "Best Smile," being the "Teacher's Pet," "Best Dressed," and "Most Dramatic."

I have had the pleasure of working alongside Trey and his parents, Jim and Tracy, multiple times on behalf of the New Madison Kiwanis at the annual Great Darke County Fair. His mother Tracy is currently in her second stint as a member of the Tri-Village Local Board of Education, where our teamwork continues to this day. Small town connections historically run very deep, with relationships intertwining in a myriad of ways. There was an almost six year period where it crossed my mind that Trey would perhaps one day be my son-in-law.

Trey and my eldest daughter, Edie, were high school "sweethearts" beginning his sophomore year and continued their relationship for the next six years roughly, until her college/career path led her out of state to Kentucky and his career path kept him close to home with friends, family, and land. Trey's family has been part of the greater New Madison community for several generations, and family roots grow deep in both Darke and Mercer Counties. I would venture to say that there was a part of Trey that considered uprooting himself and following my daughter to

Lexington and beyond, but in the end, some roots are too strong to separate from the soil in which they are bound. They grew apart due to no fault of either party; life happens.

Trey vacationed with our family many times, worked with me on projects around the house, cared for our dogs, and displayed many traits that would make him an ideal partner for one's daughter. He showed on many occasions that he was trustworthy, caring, and dependable. I went for a significant period following their break up where I didn't see or hear from Trey for reasons both obvious and unknown, but he and I did catch up one day over coffee after he reached out asking to talk. I was happy to sit down and catch up, and told him that I missed seeing him at our home sporting events. A short time later, he came to one of our home girls basketball games and we again had a great talk. These are some instances where just he and I were able to discuss life, struggles, and the hassles of adult life, much different than our previous talks during our principal/student years. I always remember Trey very fondly and continue to do so to this day.

When sitting down to pen this letter, I visited our school library and grabbed the 2018 school yearbook, titled "Our Journey," and realized immediately that I didn't really need to thumb through the pages in order to tell what brought Trey and I together. Knowing that I would find the information I thought I was looking for, like activities, sports, senior superlatives, I expected to find the expected. I flipped the pages until I was able to obtain the things I thought I was looking for. But as yearbooks can sometimes do, it led me down the rabbit hole of 2018 that I wasn't expecting to find, one that I'm sure I had never seen before. On page 72, under the caption "Blood Drive," was a picture of Trey Frech, laying on a makeshift table in our auditorium, smiling while donating a pint of blood to the Community Blood Center. Giving life.

Your honor, giving life is the opposite of what brings you and these pages together. But giving life was in Trey in 2018, and I believe that it is still within him today in 2025. His situation is gut-wrenching, and the decision that you will make to dispense justice in this matter is one that weighs heavily on you, both personally and professionally I am sure. The gravity of Trey's situation weighs heavily on all parties involved.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this correspondence. God bless you as you move forward.

Respectfully and solemnly,



Lee A. Morris, Principal
Tri-Village Junior/Senior High School
315 South Main Street
New Madison, OH 45346
(937) 996-1511 (ext. 1205)
(937) 344-8186 (cell)



To whom it may concern,

My name is Brian Bolin, I have come to know Trey Frech over the past eight years while his mother Tracy has watched our sons and also during the time of which Trey worked at Reid Healthcare. Over these past eight years I can find no fault in Trey's character nor any of his family. Everyone in the Frech household has always shown to be of a high moral fiber.

I currently work for the Reid Health Police Department and serve as their current Captain. Trey worked for Reid for a time within the valet and patient transport services that Reid provides its visitors, of which are some of society's most vulnerable and in need. This is a job that requires a kind, patient and courteous character to perform well. I had many occasions where I would stop and speak with Trey and also many occasions where I would observe his work and his interactions with those in need of his help. Trey always had a smile on his face and was always a positive influence on those he worked with and those he helped, always seeming to go above and beyond for the elderly and those with severe physical impairment. Trey while at Reid always showed a high level of compassion and caregiving that went beyond what was required of him.

As far as getting to know Trey during my daily interactions through out the weeks while dropping off and picking up my sons for Tracy to care for over the past eight years, I feel I have got a fairly good idea of his character. I have a fairly good radar for character and I have a high standard as to who I will let be around my children let alone care for them. As mentioned before, the whole Frech family is a family that I trust. Jim and Tracy did a fine job raising Trey into an honorable young man of a high moral caliber.

Every interaction I have had with Trey for eight years now has been a positive one, I would trust Trey to watch my boys and to do what is right in regards to their care. Trey is a smart young man with much integrity and with a hard work ethic but most of all he has a heart that is full of joy and compassion for all he is around. I hope this letter provides a small window into the character of Trey Frech and the type of young man he is.

Sincerely,

Brian Bolin



Asia Sykes
2913 State Route 571
Greenville, Oh 45331

February 14, 2025

To The Honorable Judge Matthew J Fox,

I am writing on behalf of Trey J. Frech. Mr. Frech and I met about six months ago and quickly established a strong connection. In this time, he has proven to be a kind, responsible, and honest individual.

We are expecting our first child in September, and I have seen firsthand Mr. Frech's dedication to becoming a loving and supportive father. He has been actively involved in every step of this journey—attending doctor's appointments and ultrasounds, preparing for our baby's arrival, and expressing his deep commitment to providing a loving and stable home.

Mr. Frech has always shown compassion for others and a strong sense of responsibility in his personal life. He deeply values family and friendship, always striving to be a positive influence. This situation has weighed heavily on him, and I have seen firsthand the deep remorse and sorrow he feels for what has happened. He has expressed to me on many occasions his profound regret over the impact of this tragic event.

I understand the seriousness of the charges before him and would never seek to minimize the pain and loss involved. However, I ask that you also consider Mr. Frech's character, his genuine remorse, and his willingness to take responsibility for his actions. I truly believe he has learned a profound and life-altering lesson from this tragedy and will do everything in his power to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter as part of your decision. I hope my words provide insight into the person Mr. Frech truly is—a man who is deeply affected by this situation and is committed to making things right.

Sincerely,

Asia Sykes



Christopher Sykes
Greenville, OH 45331
sykescs96@gmail.com
(937) 621-3067
February 14, 2025

Judge Matthew K. Fox
Mercer County Common Pleas Court
101 North Main St, Room 301
Celina, OH 45822

Dear Judge Matthew Fox,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Christopher Sykes, and I am writing to provide a character reference for Trey J. Frech, who is currently awaiting sentencing on February 19 for a fatal buggy crash that occurred in December 2023. I have had the opportunity to know Trey for the past six months through my daughter, Asia Sykes, who has been in a relationship with him during this time.

Though our relationship is relatively new, I have found Trey to be a person of good character. He is respectful, polite, and has always conducted himself with kindness and integrity whenever I have interacted with him. I have seen firsthand how much he cares for my daughter, and it is clear that he treats her with great respect and consideration.

In our conversations, Trey has shown himself to be thoughtful, responsible, and mature. He is someone who listens with empathy and is considerate of others' feelings. I believe that he is genuinely a positive influence on those around him, and his values align with those that I hold dear.

While I understand the seriousness of the occurrence, I am confident that Trey is someone who is capable of learning from any mistakes, should they have been made, and he has shown genuine remorse and growth during our time of getting to know him. I have no doubt that he will continue to make good decisions and live up to the responsibility of being a good partner and member of our community. I am also willing to do my part by being a positive influence on Trey and assisting him in continuing to better himself while supporting the lifestyle changes that he has already made.

Thank you for considering my perspective. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Sykes

Dear Judge Fox,

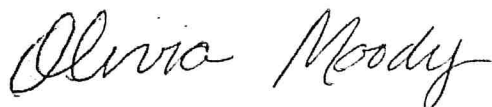
My name is Olivia Moody and I am sending this letter on behalf of Trey Frech and his character. I interact with Trey on an almost daily basis. I have young kids and they also see Trey on an almost daily basis. We have been family friends for around 8 years.

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that I understand Trey has made a mistake. As mentioned before, I have young kids so I fully understand the hurt that his actions have caused; not only for the family involved, but for him and his family. The key word is that it was a *mistake*. Trey is a young, trustworthy and good man. Since I have known him, he has never been in trouble, he has always been hard working and has always treated myself and my children with respect. He is and will be a great productive member of society.

We all make mistakes. I know he has to live with his mistake every day and that in itself is a very harsh and real punishment. I have been in situations where I have made mistakes. I was lucky that I had a support system and the ability to move forward with hard work. I see that characteristic in Trey as well. I am very confident that he will move on from this, learn from his actions and use this as an opportunity to look at life a little more seriously. I personally do not believe that his actions will define Trey, he has so much more to offer our community.

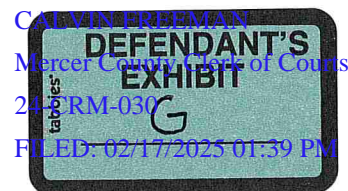
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,



Olivia Moody

*To the Honorable Judge
Matthew J fox*



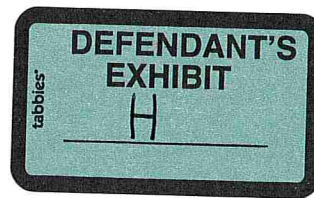
My name is KJ Lehman, to give a summary about Trey, would be next to impossible, as you read you will understand why. I grew up without a brother, but always wanted one to give a hard time to have his back through thick and thin and to have a loyal brother is rare and hard to come by these days Trey was not my childhood best friend nor did I meet him when I was four years old because our moms were friends. Me and him, somewhere along the lines we both valued the same things, and we wanted to do the same things in our lives, those wishes, and bucket list items were eerily similar. Our respect for our fathers is identical, then over the course of about three years now I have we have developed a brotherhood that is just as deep as blood, All men make mistakes me or him are not without, but how we come back as men after we learned the lesson or got through a hardship makes a man. Trey is top tier when it comes to a brother and a man. Very few people in this life ever experience brotherhood like we have. It is a great honor and a great bond of loyalty to experience it. Knowing that you will go to the grave with a brother that will have your back, no matter what, that is what every man yawns to know he has with his brother I have watched Trey grow into a much greater man in such a few short years and the things he values have changed also for the better. I could type a 20 page essay about the memories the fun times the times we have been upset at each other and the times we have probably forgotten, but I guess the important part is Trey has always been there for me no matter what and you just don't find that in a friend anymore these days. Someone who will pull out on a derby track with all odds stacked against us and take a not so fair beating or run it down to just us and not flinch or quiver. Either one may sound like an odd example but sometimes understanding it from a different person's perspective will shed light to someone that may not know us how close we are and understand our bond. To speak on Trey 's character would begin with his ability to be resilient in a tough situation, many of times we have found ourselves in not so enjoyable experiences, but not once has Trey ever been negative or condescending. He is incredibly pure hearted, sometimes to a fault but a good fault to have. He gives his all to his family and his girlfriend and I am sure he will give his all to his new child, he gives our friendship 100% even when it is not convenient for him or me. I have seen him give to people who do not deserve it and shrug it off when they do not receive it well or do not thank him or appreciate him and go on about his day. Never to say he wouldn't do it for the next person even though the last person didn't appreciate what he gave or did. That is the kind of person that Jesus wants us all to be, he doesn't hold grudges, and he has priorities and pays attention to the things that matter and pays a little to none to the things that don't. He has a great family man and an incredible hard worker; trust me I beg him to go on road trips to pick up cars and his priority is and always has been working and supporting him and his girlfriend and his future child. That is why I never get upset when he tells me no, because I know his priorities are where they need to be, and there will always be another trip.

**To the Honorable Judge
Matthew J fox**

I will close by saying there is no man on this earth that is living besides my father that I would trust anything in my life to except for Trey. I know if I was to leave this Earth unexpectedly, I would want Trey to be there for my family in time of need and to take over my responsibilities, Heeding the gravity of that statement should speak for itself for Trey and his character.

Trey's Brother-Kj Lehman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kj Lehman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K" and "L".



CALVIN FREEMAN
Mercer County Clerk of Courts
24-CRM-030
FILED: 02/17/2025 01:39 PM
February 10, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to provide this character reference for Trey Frech. I have had the privilege of knowing Trey for approximately 10 years in a personal capacity. My daughters were present in his home before and after school, and during the daytime in the summer as his mother is a family friend who helped with my children. I was able to witness a natural warmth and genuine concern for being that "big brother" figure to the kids. His patience, creativity, and adaptability were evident in the way that he engaged with the kids regardless of their age. I witnessed him pick up a crying infant to console them, and be out in the yard playing catch with older kids. He consistently fostered a positive and safe environment for my girls and the other children, encouraging them to play freely and safely, but to enjoy themselves.

It is the standout quality of being able to connect with children on an individual level, whether it was with children like my girls or his nephew. He assisted the kids with schoolwork, creative activities, or simply providing a listening ear when they were tearful or full of emotion. He has a calm demeanor in allowing each child to express themselves, feel seen and valued. As a parent, I could appreciate this trustworthy nature and responsible approach.

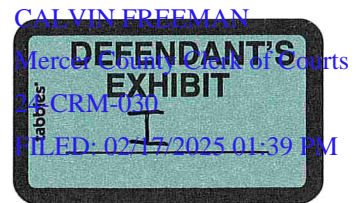
While no one is without flaws, I have witnessed Trey's admirable ability to reflect on the past event and make meaningful steps toward personal growth and positive change. I witness Trey in church every Sunday, practicing his faith sitting amongst our church community, but most importantly with his family including his parents, sister, brother in law and nephew. Understanding that he made a decision that resulted in harm, I believe this does not define the person that he is nor the person he will be in the future. I have seen his strength and resilience, his love for his family. Trey has shown remarkable courage in acknowledging the event that occurred and takes responsibility for his actions. I believe that his future includes a sincere willingness to learn, adapt and improve his mindset. This quality, combined with a strong family foundation and intrinsic thoughtful nature, makes him someone who is not only capable of change but also determined to grow into the best version of himself.

I have confidence that Trey will continue this path of personal growth. He has learned a hard, valuable lesson from this past and is focused on making meaningful contributions moving forward.

With great respect,

Garrick Sweet

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Sweet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.



Kelli Pierce

1856 New Madison-Coletown road

New Madison, Oh 45346

937-621-5203

Kelli.pierce11@yahoo.com

2/11/25

To the Honorable Judge Fox,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my cousin, Trey Frech, who is currently facing charges related to a tragic vehicular accident. I have known Trey since the day he was born, and can personally attest to his good character, strong moral values, and deep sense of responsibility.

Trey has always been such a kind, respectful, and compassionate individual. He has never shown any disregard for the well-being of others, and this heartbreaking incident is entirely out of character for him. I am the oldest of thirteen grandchildren, with Trey being the youngest. I've watched him grow into such a wonderful man and this accident has changed him drastically. He is such a hard-working man that would do anything for anyone. Just recently during one of our snow storms my husband was out of town for work and I got stuck leaving the driveway. Trey, without hesitation or being asked, came to my rescue. He is always doing small selfless acts like this without expecting anything in return. I truly believe he is devastated by what has happened and he never intended to cause harm.

Throughout his life, Trey has demonstrated integrity and responsibility, but nothing like the improvements I've seen in him in the last year. For a short time, Trey also worked with me at my organization and anytime I talk to those that worked with him I've received nothing but compliments about his work ethic and his kindness. Whether in his academic pursuits, work or personal relationships, he has always strived to be a positive and contributing member of society. He has been a loving and supportive family member, and I have always known him to be someone who genuinely cares for others.

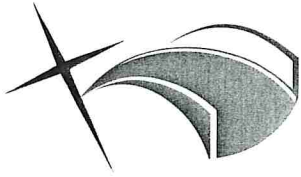
I do not write this letter to diminish the seriousness of what has happened, but rather to provide insight into the person Trey truly is. He is someone who is deeply remorseful, willing to take accountability, and who will undoubtedly carry this experience with him for the rest of his life. I sincerely hope that his character, history and genuine remorse he feels will be taken into consideration in any decisions made regarding his future.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me at 937-621-5203 or email me at kelli.pierce11@yahoo.com. I pray Gods grace and forgiveness is given to Trey when a sentence is given.

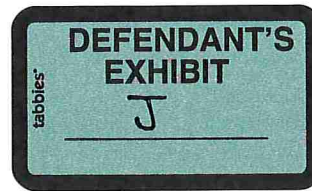
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli Pierce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kelli Pierce



937.997.3675



CALVIN FREEMAN
Mercer County Clerk of Courts
Cedar Grove Church
2401 M-100
New Paris, Ohio 45347
FILED: 02/17/2025 1:03 PM

Judge Fox,

February 2025

The reason for this letter is to give a character reference for Trey James Frech. I have served as Trey's pastor for near 16 years. Over those years I have seen Trey grow into a gifted, capable and talented young man.

Trey has been a faithful attender at our church before and since I arrived in 2010. He has participated in a mission experience to Brooklyn, New York, attended local service mission trips, and attended our National Youth Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado. Trey was a regular attendee of our youth group meetings at Cedar Grove Church while he was in junior high and high school. He is always quick to help me with projects around the church that fall into his giftedness and sometimes I can even stretch him beyond his comfort zone. It has been a joy to watch him grow. When he was in high school, I gave him the verse Psalm 28:7 as an encouragement, "The LORD is my strength and my shield in Him my heart trusts." I have continued to encourage him with that verse through the years.

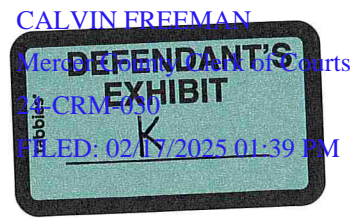
Trey is also quick lend a hand around my home when it comes to automotive repair or home repair. Trey has spent time with our family socially and has been a good "big brother" figure to my three younger daughters. He and I took a trip to Charlotte, North Carolina for my nephew's wedding. Trey's work ethic is notable. He works hard and shares his knowledge with others around him.

Over this past year, I was able to spend a little extra time with Trey after his accident helping with driving him to work and appointments. In that time, we had good and honest conversations about God's merciful hand on his life and how his past need not define his future. I have seen tremendous emotional growth in Trey over the past year and I am thankful to offer him unconditional love and support.

Respectfully,

Pastor Tony Price
Cedar Grove Church

"B.R.I.D.G.E." BRINGING PEOPLE TO CHRIST



Tori and Josh Stewart
305 E Main St
New Paris, OH 45347

February 11, 2025

Re: Trey Freck

To Honorable Matthew Fox,

Trey is the son of my husband's friend at work. Trey worked for my husband over a two year period. He performed our electrical work on our room remodels. Trey was always prompt, responsible and did a satisfactory job. We have three little girls running around during these remodels and Trey was respectful of their curious questioning and keeping their little hands from getting hurt. We understand Trey's charges and just believe that he is a good person who made a bad decision.

Sincerely,

Toria Stewart



February 6th 2025

3 Way Electric
710 Hiddeson Ave
Greenville, Ohio 45331

Re: Trey Frech

To whom it may concern:

Trey has been employed with us (3 Way Electric) since Oct. 11th 2021 and is a vital team member. He is well liked by the staff and our customers, regularly getting positive comments about his work performed. Trey is a skilled employee and is often asked to use his skills to lead or assist in projects daily. He is an essential part of our team.

Jason Petty



February 14th 2025

3 Way Electric
710 Hiddeson Ave
Greenville, Ohio 45331

Re: Trey Frech

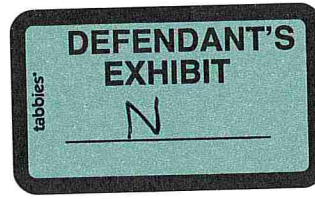
To whom it may concern:

Trey has been employed with me since Oct. 11th 2021. Trey is a good kid and is vital to my business.

In today's world it is hard to find employees with the desire to work let alone be skilled in a trade. It would be difficult to replace Trey, and his absence would influence how we service customers.

Monte Miller

President 3 Way Electric



CALVIN FREEMAN
Mercer County Clerk of Courts
24-CRM-030

FILED: 02/17/2025 01:39 PM
February 11, 2025

Dear Judge Fox,

I am writing this character witness letter on behalf of Trey Frech. My name is Kasey Short (Frech) I have had the pleasure of knowing Trey for his entire life. He is my cousin, growing up I was always with his sisters; we are all close in age. I remember how excited I was when I found out that they were getting a little brother. Growing up he was more like a little brother to me than a cousin because of the relationship we created and now I consider him as an uncle figure to my little girl. I found out I was expecting in December of 2023 and two days later was his accident. I remember praying that he would be able to meet my baby, not knowing what was going to happen. In August of 2024 I had my little girl, and Trey was there at the hospital to meet my little girl. It meant the world to me that he was able to meet her, and it warmed my heart that he was there for us. It just shows that he is a good person, who took the time out to welcome our baby girl and show his love.

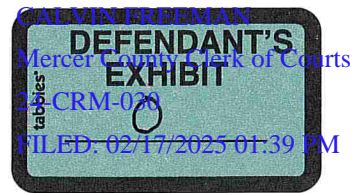
One bad choice unfortunately changed lives forever but doesn't change who he is as a person. Trey is a loving and caring young man. He has always been an honest, loyal, hardworking person, who is willing to lend a helping hand to those in need and leave a smile on your face. He is dedicated to his family, Church and work.

I believe that Trey is a valuable member of our society who has made a positive impact to those in his life. I recognize him as a person with good character who deserves to prove that.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kasey Short



February 11, 2025

Re: Trey James Frech

To: The Honorable Judge Fox,

I am writing on the behalf of Trey Frech. I am Trey's oldest sister and have known him his entire life. Trey is one of the most caring, hard-working, responsible and family-oriented people I know. He is the first person to lend a helping hand and has always been someone I can go to for anything. Although Trey and I have an age difference of nine years, I consider him one of my closest friends whom I can always turn to when in need. He is the epitome of a great uncle to my son and has always strived to be a positive role model in his life.

Being his oldest sister, I have experienced many of the highs and lows alongside Trey. A few years ago, he entered one of the lowest points I have witnessed. He began to distance himself from his family and friends and became a person that was unrecognizable. Trey was in a depression that was heart breaking to witness. A month before the accident, with some assistance from family, Trey realized that he needed help and wanted to get back to the life he had prior to the depression. He decided to seek help and started to see a therapist. Trey realized that he needed to open up to someone and that in doing so, it would help him return to the person he once was. The accident was the lowest point for Trey and will always be a pivotal and life altering event that he will carry with him for the rest of his life.

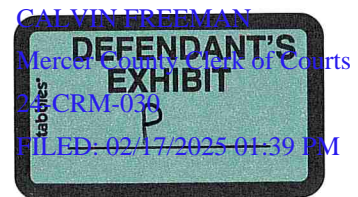
The accident changed many lives and Trey has shown great remorse for his actions. The event was a huge point of self-reflection for Trey, and he has taken even more steps to grow as an individual. He has continued to grow in his faith and can be counted on to assist in church when help is needed. Trey has worked hard to improve and strengthen his relationships with his family and friends and has learned to lean on them to be a constant support in his quest to be the best version of himself. He has devoted more time to his work and has strived to be a leader within his company and to be a valuable team member. Trey is now in a healthy relationship with someone who shares his values and is another source of support to help Trey continue on the path to be the man he strives to be.

I believe that Trey has made many positive changes to his life since the accident, and I can say with confidence that he is not the same man as he was the day of the accident. Trey has a tremendous support system within his family, friends, co-workers, church family, and therapist who continue to walk alongside him and to be a constant sense of encouragement. He has learned a hard lesson from past events, but I am confident that he will continue to grow and use the lessons learned to become the best possible version of himself.

Sincerely,

Mallorie Dill

Mallorie Dill



February 12, 2025

To: The Honorable Judge Fox,

I am writing this letter as a character reference for Trey Frech. I am his brother-in-law and have known Trey for almost 20 years. We spent a lot of time together throughout the years from his sister and I dating and into our marriage. I watched him play multiple sports for many years and he always showed good sportsmanship and class in whatever sport he was involved in. He was a great teammate and always did what was asked of him to be an asset to his team and he handled adversity well when it came. Trey has a very kind heart and has always shown a willingness to help others. In fact, when I need help with just about anything, I can count on him to lend a helping hand.

Trey also has a very good work ethic. A coworker of his has shared with me that Trey has an eagerness to learn and get better at his trade. Trey's attention to detail and professionalism has become paramount in his day-to-day work. As I mentioned before, Trey played sports for many years. He played three different sports throughout all four years of high school, which I believe helped cultivate his work ethic due to the many hours of hard work and dedication day in and day out. Trey has always showed that he will strive to do things to the best of his ability.

Over the past year I have witnessed Trey grow as a man. He has attended church more and has experienced the benefits of having Jesus in his life. He's still growing in his relationship with Him, as we all are, but Trey sees the importance of that and attending church with people who love and care about him. He has recommitted himself to his work and become a better employee. Trey has always been a great uncle to our son, but he's enjoying the time with him more than he as in the past. These things that I have witnessed show me that he is on the right path. He admits, that while the accident that occurred was a tragedy, it was one that he caused. I have never heard him try to blame others for what happened and he has taken full accountability. While that may seem obvious, it is not always easy to accept responsibility, especially in such a serious situation. He has expressed how he is ready to move on with his life, take the lessons learned and use them to help him, and make a positive impact on the lives of others.

The accident was indeed a tragedy, and one that Trey thinks about daily and the memory of it will never leave him. The events that unfolded do not define his character, rather I believe it has highlighted his positive character traits and the steps he is willing to take to make better decisions in the future to continue to improve his life. Thank you for considering this letter on behalf of Trey.

Sincerely,


Craig Dill



February 12, 2025

To the Honorable Judge Fox,

My name is Hillarie Frech, and I am Trey's sister. I have had the pleasure and privilege of knowing my brother for 25 years, both as a sibling and a close confidant. Throughout our lives, Trey has consistently demonstrated qualities such as honesty, integrity, responsibility, being a hard worker, and reliability. There are so many examples that I could provide to you to show these attributes, but one instance really stands out to me that can show you all of them at once.

About 5 years ago I was personally going through a rough time as to where I was in criminal trouble as well and even had been in a car accident. I was 28 years old and was having to move back in with my parents, my boyfriend was being sent to prison, and I felt like I was a complete failure at everything. One person who really stepped up and helped me get through this hard time was Trey. He would talk to me when I needed someone to talk to, he would drive me places if I needed to go somewhere, whatever it may have been, he was there to help me out. I full-heartedly believe that Trey learned from this low point in my life, how to get through his own low point. He was able to put the shoe on the other foot, per se, and has been able to use the resources around him and get himself back on the right track. I think that in continuing this journey to improve himself and stay out of trouble, he needs to be around his family, friends, and other confidants that he has in his life. Being sent away from all the positivity he has is not going to do him any good at this point in his life. All I am asking for, for Trey, is to at least give him the chance to keep making strides in the right direction.

With all this said, I do realize and acknowledge that Trey has broken the law and that there are consequences for the actions he has taken. However, I do not believe that sentencing Trey to community control would demean the seriousness of the offense. The initiative of being sent to prison is to rehabilitate an offender by addressing the root causes of why the crime was committed and to set them up for success for when they get back out into society and decreasing the recidivism factor so they will not commit the crimes again. Since the accident occurred, Trey was never arrested or put into custody. He was able to continue to be out and prove to everyone, as well as himself, that he is able to change and keep moving forward rather than putting his life on hold by being behind a cell door. He has continued to work and rise in the ranks within his electrical job. He has also managed to stay out of trouble and abide by the conditions that were set forth for him by the pre-sentencing probation department. Personally, I just feel that sentencing Trey to a prison term would not be beneficial or productive for him. He is going in the right direction currently, with his career, building a little family of his own, and continuing to be involved in all his family's lives and be a role model for his two nephews. If

sending someone to prison is to punish them while helping them become better people, then I believe that this can effectively happen while being outside the prison system and having the probation department as well as his family continue to hold him accountable and keep him on the right path, thus reducing the likeliness of recidivism.

I really hope you can take all this into account and consideration when sentencing Trey. If I can sit here and say that Trey is a man that I hope my son will grow up to be like, then I do believe that should say something about the type of person Trey is.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillarrie Frech". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hillarrie Frech

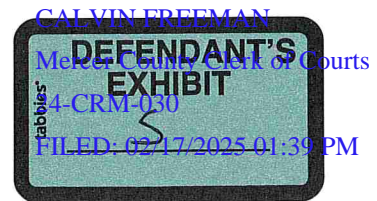
Dear
Honorable Judge Matthew Fox



My name is James Frech, I am Trey Frech's father.
I am writing this letter to show what kind of man Trey is .
Trey has always been a unselfish and helpful person.
Trey works 5-6 days a week at a full time job and is actively
involved in Church. I am a member of Kiwanis club and Trey
volunteers to help with setting up the trailers and works in
the trailers to help out for events that make funds for
children that needs help in our community.

Sincerely

James Frech



February 11, 2025

Re: Character Reference for Trey Frech

Dear Honorable Judge Fox,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my son, Trey Frech, whom I love dearly. Trey is one of the kindest, most generous young men I know, and the tragic accident on December 22, 2023, does not reflect the true character of the person he is. As his mother, I have always strived to raise him to be a gentleman—honest, compassionate, and true to his word.

Trey was raised in a home full of love, supported by his father, myself, and his two older sisters. He formed a special bond with his father through their shared passion for sports and demolition derby cars, and he has always been deeply connected to his faith. His love for God is evident in the way he lives his life—actively participating in church, attending Sunday school, and engaging in youth group trips to places like New York, Colorado, and Canton, Ohio. Even his tattoos serve as a reflection of his devotion to Jesus and his deep love for his family.

The past couple of years have been challenging for Trey. After ending a six-year relationship in late 2022 or early 2023, he entered another relationship that quickly escalated to an engagement before ending abruptly. In hindsight, it was a toxic and unhealthy situation. Recognizing this, Trey made the mature decision to seek therapy, taking responsibility for his emotional well-being and striving to find his place in the world as a man.

Since that horrible night, I have witnessed my son struggle with overwhelming grief and remorse. Seeing him in the hospital was heartbreaking—he was physically broken but incredibly blessed to be alive. However, when he learned of the devastating consequences of the accident, the pain on his face was unbearable. He was in total disbelief, struggling to remember the events of that night, and he grieves deeply for the precious little girl whose life was lost and for the pain her family has endured. This is a weight he will carry for the rest of his life.

Despite this tragedy, Trey has continued to work on himself. He has found comfort in his faith and in a new, healthy relationship with a caring young woman who shares his love for God. Together, they attend church and are preparing to welcome their first child in September. This new chapter in his life has given him a renewed sense of responsibility and purpose.

Trey fully understands the severity of his actions and has accepted responsibility. He does not take this lightly. The scars on his chest are a permanent reminder of that night—both physically and emotionally. He knows that many lives have been forever changed, and he carries that burden every single day.

I acknowledge that there must be consequences for what happened, and Trey does as well. However, I humbly ask that his sentencing be carried out in a way that allows him to continue his personal growth and fully accept responsibility in a constructive manner. I truly believe that Trey has the ability to make a meaningful contribution to society, and I respectfully request that any punishment focus on rehabilitation rather than incarceration. He is not defined by this tragedy alone, and I have faith that he will use this experience to grow into a better man.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I deeply appreciate your fairness in making this difficult decision.

Sincerely,


Tracy Frech