

Give drunk driver 7-10 years: Crown

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CALGARY HERALD

More than a year after the matriarch of the family was killed by a speeding, impaired driver who potentially faces a decade or more behind bars, the Pulwicks family struggles to go on.

In a victim impact statement filed at the sentencing of Christopher James Rae on Tuesday, the family, which immigrated from Poland in 1979, wrote that just as they had stabilized their lives, "everything was toppled by the careless actions of a stranger."

On Dec. 27, 2009, Rae, 27, was behind the wheel of a stolen truck travelling at more than 80 km/h in a 50 km/h zone on 20th Ave. N.W. when he ignored a red light and broadsided the Pulwicks' 2003 Saturn.

Malgorzata (Margaret) Pulwicks, 57, a passenger in the left back seat of the vehicle being legally driven by her 14-year-old son Robert on the way to church, absorbed most of the impact and died a short time later.

Her husband Boniface and Robert only suffered minor injuries.

Rae has pleaded guilty to impaired driving, criminal negligence causing death, hit and run and hit and run causing death for fleeing the scene.

"He showed a wanton and reck-

less disregard for all other people, both in the way he drove and because his ability to operate a motor vehicle was impaired by drugs," Crown prosecutor Jonathan Hak told provincial court Judge Anne Brown in seeking a seven-to-10 year prison term for the driving offences for a man he called a career criminal.

"After he callously struck the Pulwicks vehicle at the intersection... he was only concerned with himself. Not only did he flee the scene, he sought to change his appearance by ditching items. He could not have cared less for the devastation he caused."

Rae also pleaded guilty to robbery and theft for a pair of jewelry store heists on Sept. 3, 2009, in which he smashed glass cases with a hammer, threatened staff and stole more than \$200,000 worth of merchandise.

Prosecutor Mike Ewenson, who outlined those facts, sought an additional three to four years for the jewelry store incidents, for a total of 10 to 14 years. Defence lawyer Joan Blumer argued for six to nine years for all of the offences.

Sentencing will take place April 14.



**Margaret
Pulwicks**