

Former McDowell County sheriff's deputy Brandon Watson pleaded no contest yesterday to misdemeanor charges in connection to a crash that left a 2-year-old dead.

Watson was charged with misdemeanor death by vehicle and reckless driving after a grand jury failed to indict him on felony charges in May. Watson received 48 months probation and a 45-day suspended sentence. The accident happened on Interstate 40 near Old Fort as Watson was answering a domestic disturbance call. According to investigators, Watson was traveling at approximately 120 miles per hour without flashing lights or a siren. Watson crashed into a car driven by Kimberly Frye of Bakersville. The driver, her 6-year-old daughter, Katherine and mother, Ruth Huskins, were all seriously injured in the February crash. 2-year-old Kennedy Frye died at the scene.