

Gastonia man faces new charge in 'Suspicious' incident

Written by

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A Gastonia man faces a new charge this week resulting from an August 25 incident in Avery County.

Sheriff Kevin Frye says 43-year-old Douglas Wade Fleming was arrested Tuesday afternoon by the Avery County Sheriff's Office and served a warrant for felony driving while impaired. The initial charge was upgraded to a felony due to the serious injury of passenger Tracie Tonya Hanna.

After Fleming twice told officers on scene he had been alone when his vehicle skidded against a guardrail, Hanna's cries were heard twenty feet away down an embankment. Fleming then said Hanna was his girlfriend, according to reports. It's an incident Frye calls "suspicious." In a written statement released yesterday, he said that the accident itself was minor, and skidding against a guardrail should not have resulted in Hanna's serious injuries.

Hanna was flown to Johnson City Medical Center.

The SBI has been actively investigating the case in cooperation with Frye's office. The incident occurred near Richard Childress Road.

Fleming owns and operates the Mr. Nobody tire service centers in Gastonia. He posted his \$10,000 bond and is no longer in Avery County custody.