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Prosecutor in local judicial district charged with DUI resigns

Writer:

Chad Abraham

Byline:

Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

A prosecutor who was arrested early Wednesday for DUI and other traffic offenses resigned Friday, said District Attorney Sherry Caloia.

Authorities say Matthew Pearson, 39, of Aspen Village, rolled his vehicle Tuesday night outside the neighborhood near Highway 82.

Pearson, who was a deputy district attorney in the Rifle office, allegedly told a Colorado State Patrol trooper that he lost control of his 2013 Chevy Uplander after hitting a speed bump. The trooper wrote that she smelled alcohol emanating from Pearson and that he failed roadside maneuvers.

No blood-alcohol content was available for Pearson because he allegedly refused to take either a breath or blood test. Under state law, that could result in Pearson, who prosecuted misdemeanor, DUI and traffic cases, losing his driver's license for a year.

This is his second drunken-driving related offense, Caloia said Thursday.

Pearson offered his resignation when he met with Caloia on Friday, she said.

“That was his preference,” she said. “He’s feeling very bad about everything.”

Caloia said that while Pearson is merely accused of DUI, along with careless driving and failing to show proof of insurance, she reiterated that it would have been difficult to retain him.

On Thursday, she said that it would be hard for her to have a prosecutor who handles DUIs and traffic offenses being accused of violating the same laws.

Pearson is due in Pitkin County Court on Jan. 7.

Caloia said a motion for a special prosecutor will be filed before then.

chad@aspendailynews.com

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