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Repeat Drunk Driver Driving Without Interlock or Valid Driver's License Sentenced



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that CLARENCE COFFIN, 46, of Schenectady, was sentenced to (1) year in the Albany County Correctional Facility, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

In addition to his sentence, COFFIN was ordered by the court to a minimum 18 month license revocation, subject to Department of Motor Vehicle guidelines, and ordered to install an Interlock Ignition Device upon release from custody.

On May 1, 2018, COFFIN pleaded guilty to the four count indictment charging: (1) Count of Driving While Intoxicated, as a Class D Felony, (1) Count of Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, (1) Count of Operating a Vehicle Not Equipped with Interlock Device, a Class A Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Refusing to Submit to a Breath Test, a Violation of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

On November 10, 2017, at approximately 10:13 P.M., members of the Albany Police Department observed a vehicle being erratically driven by COFFIN near North Main Avenue and Western Avenue in the City of Albany. During a traffic stop the officers observed physical signs of intoxication. COFFIN refused to participate with field sobriety tests or submit to a chemical breath analysis. At the time of the incident COFFIN was driving on a suspended license and was not in compliance with the Interlock Ignition Device requirements that were imposed by the Court from a previous drunk driving conviction.

COFFIN has (4) prior alcohol related driving convictions.

“Due to the nature of this case and criminal history of the defendant, the People, in conjunction with the Albany County Department of Probation, recommended a sentence of incarceration in State Prison. The Court sentenced COFFIN to jail for the period of (1) year. Our office will continue to advocate for convictions and appropriate sentences in these cases as we will not tolerate repeat drunk drivers putting the lives of community members at risk,” commented Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter who handled the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov .

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