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Drunk Driver Pleads Guilty to Causing Serious Injury in July Crash

Jeremias Yanes, 46, pled guilty this week to a drunk driving crash that sent three teenagers to the hospital.

On July 20, 2025, Yanes was driving southbound on Carolina Beach Road in the Monkey Junction area of Wilmington at approximately 9:35 pm. As he approached the intersection of Antoinette Drive, Yanes collided with the rear of a vehicle in his lane of travel that was stopped at a red light. The three teenagers in that vehicle were transported to Novant Health New Hanover Regional Medical Center. The youngest passenger, age 16, suffered the most serious injuries, which included a fractured femur, jaw, and ribs as well as lacerations and head trauma. All three victims have since been discharged from the hospital but continue to require significant follow-up care.

A passing ambulance stopped and assisted immediately, as did several Good Samaritans. Witnesses said that Yanes's vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed at the time of the crash. Yanes admitted on scene that he had consumed at least six beers prior to driving. A crime lab analysis of his blood sample showed 0.20 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters. His criminal record showed convictions for minor previous traffic offenses: driving without a license and running a stop sign, both in 2019.

The Court found Yanes guilty of committing Serious Injury by Motor Vehicle, a class F felony. In addition to becoming a felon, Yanes will serve an active prison sentence in the N.C. Department of Adult Corrections for a minimum of 13 months, maximum of 25 months. Assistant District Attorney David Joyner prosecuted the case.

"First responders with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and Novant Health EMS acted quickly to assist the teenagers in the stopped vehicle and render aid. Our prayers are with the victims, who will have a long road to healing from this crash," said Jason W. Smith, District Attorney for New Hanover and Pender Counties. "The Defendant's intentional and selfish choice to get drunk and then get behind the wheel showed a lack of respect for this community. Despite his minimal record, he now becomes a felon and receives an active prison sentence, entirely appropriate for the risk and harm he caused."



Jeremias Yanes