

**News Release from**  
**The Honorable Sandra Doorley**  
**Monroe County District Attorney**

October 15, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Kelsey Sponaugle Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree After  
Causing the Death of Tyler Ward**

Rochester, NY- On Thursday, October 15, 23-year-old Kelsey Sponaugle pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for causing the opioid-related death of Tyler Ward.

On Tuesday, February 25, 2020, after an investigation conducted by the Monroe County Heroin Task Force and the Brockport Police Department, Kelsey Sponaugle was indicted for her involvement in the overdose death of Tyler Ward on September 8-9, 2019 in the Village of Brockport. She will be sentenced at a later date in front of New York State Supreme Court Justice Judith Sinclair.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy of the Special Investigations Bureau.

“Today’s admission is the result of the commitment of the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office to fight illegal opioids in our community as well as the thorough investigation conducted by the Monroe County Heroin Task Force and the Brockport Police Department,” said Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Kennedy. “We hope that with today’s admission of guilt, others will think twice before using and providing illegal narcotics in our community and Tyler’s friends and family can move forward with their grief.”

“The pandemic that has encompassed 2020 has only made it worse for those struggling with opioid addiction,” said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “Holding dealers and those who are pushing opioids accountable for taking advantage of those who are struggling with substance abuse disorder is one way we can help in the fight against this epidemic. After several homicide charges over the past three years, we hope that the message has spread to dealers that we will hold them accountable for promoting these life-threatening opioids in our community.”

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