

## **Sun Sentinel**

### **Disgraced psychologist pleads not guilty to DUI manslaughter Coral Springs crash last March killed retiree, 58**

By Jon Burstein

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CORAL SPRINGS - A disgraced Coral Springs psychologist with an extensive history of substance abuse has pleaded not guilty to DUI manslaughter and other criminal charges in a crash that killed a local retiree.

Paul Inkeles, 56, had cocaine, oxycodone, morphine and five other drugs in his system on March 26 when his Infiniti sedan plowed into a Mercedes-Benz convertible driven by Steven Mait, according to court records. Tests conducted by Coral Springs police indicated Inkeles was driving at least 22 mph over the 35 mph speed limit on Lakeview Drive.

At the time of the crash, Inkeles was out on bond awaiting trial for cocaine and heroin possession. His license to practice psychology already had been suspended indefinitely after he was accused of overdosing on cocaine and heroin while his school-age children were visiting him, state records show.

Inkeles will fight the crash charges, said his defense attorney, Steven Swickle, but he declined to elaborate.

After the crash, Inkeles was rushed with a broken leg to North Broward Medical Center, where a nurse found crack cocaine on him, police reports show. When a hospital staffer confronted Inkeles about his drug abuse, he responded that he was a psychologist so "there is nothing you can tell me that I don't know," according to hospital records.

The staffer wrote that Inkeles showed no remorse and appeared convinced the crash wasn't his fault.

The Broward State Attorney's Office charged Inkeles Jan. 6 with DUI manslaughter, vehicular homicide and possession of cocaine as well as citing him for speeding and driving with unsafe or defective equipment. He could face up to 15 years in prison if found guilty.

Mait, 58, had been turning left out of the Eagle Trace development when Inkeles slammed into the driver's side of his Mercedes, court records show.

Before retiring, Mait had worked in finance in both New York City and Europe, said one of his two sons, Adam Mait. Adam Mait, a felony prosecutor with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, said he would talk to his father over the phone a few times every day, and that they spoke an hour before the 8:53 a.m.

crash.

"The next time I saw him he was slowly bleeding on a bed and losing his warmth," Mait said.

Court records show Inkeles had drug convictions in 1985 and 1987. Inkeles told a forensic psychologist last year that he began abusing substances when he was 13 years old with stretches of sobriety, according to court documents.

State records show that in 2006 he successfully completed a state-monitoring program for psychologists with substance abuse problems. But by January 2008, he had been involuntarily committed to a hospital after a drug overdose, according to state records.

Two weeks after the car crash, Inkeles pleaded no contest to drug charges he faced in an October 2008 case. As part of the plea deal he was placed on house arrest, but in July he was arrested again with Broward Sheriff's deputies finding 10 baggies of cocaine and \$1,040 on him, court records show.

Inkeles was sentenced in September to a year and a day in state prison for violating his probation in the October 2008 case and his July arrest. He is being held in the New River Correctional Institution in Raiford. He was not in court Tuesday when his attorney entered the not-guilty plea before Broward Circuit Judge Kenneth Gillespie.

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