



Traffic police personnel escort the teenager at the court. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

Fatal crash: Teen pleads guilty; dad fined for letting him drive without a licence



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KUCHING: The 15-year-old driver involved in the multi-vehicle fatal accident on Jalan Teo Kui Seng here in January this year pleaded guilty yesterday to reckless driving that caused the deaths of five people, and for driving without a licence.

He made the pleas before Magistrate Ling Hui Chuan, who fixed June 17, 2025 for sentencing pending his probation report.

The court further granted the teen bail of RM5,000 with his parents as sureties.

The reckless-driving charge was framed under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987, punishable under the same Section of the same Act, which provides between five and 10 years' imprisonment or a fine between RM20,000 and RM50,000.



The second charge for underage driving was framed under Section 39(1) of the same Act, punishable under Section 39(5) of the same Act, and carries a fine of up to RM2,000 or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

According to both amended charges, the teenager committed the offences at Jalan Teo Kui Seng here at around 1.10pm on Jan 14, 2025.

The multi-vehicle crash

claimed five lives—three men and a woman aged between 16 and 45 who were pronounced dead at the scene, and a 16-year-old boy who died while receiving treatment at the Sarawak General Hospital.

The teen driver sustained a neck injury and was subsequently detained by police.

Dashcam footage shared on social media showed an out-of-control car heading from the direction of Jalan Lapangan Terbang towards Jalan Stutong Baru flying through the air into the opposite lane and colliding with multiple vehicles.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Mohamad Fillanny Siji appeared for the prosecution, while the teenager was unrepresented by legal counsel.

Meanwhile, the teenager's father was yesterday fined RM15,000 in default 12 months' jail by the Magistrates' Court for leaving his son without reasonable supervision.

Senior Assistant Registrar Nuraini Ahmad imposed the

fine on the 35-year-old man and also ordered him to perform 100 hours of community service within a period of six months.

He pleaded guilty to a charge under Section 33(1)(a) of the Child Act 2001, punishable under Section 33(1) of the same Act which provides a fine not exceeding RM20,000 or imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

In mitigation, the father pleaded for leniency, stating that this was his first offence and he was truly remorseful.

He requested a non-custodial sentence, explaining that he is married and works as a daily-paid bricklayer.

DPP Mohamad Fillanny did not object to the plea mitigation but urged the court to consider that the law is very clear—the interest of the public far outweighs that of the accused.

"There were five victims who lost their lives due to the accident caused by the son of the accused.

Time to send the right message to the public — DPP

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"The cause of the accident is rooted from the accused allowing his son to drive the car even though he knew that his son was not in the possession of a valid licence.

"Consequently, an accident happened and five innocent people, who had complied with road safety regulations, suddenly (lost their lives). They were fathers, a mother, a son, of someone.

"This is the right time to send the right message to the public that we do not condone this. As a parent, you have to make sure that you don't simply let your children drive a car when you know that they do not possess a valid licence.

"Take the seriousness of



The father exits the courtroom after the proceedings. — Photo by Mohd Faisal Ahmad

this offence and send the right message to the public, to take care of their children to avoid similar accidents," said the DPP.

He further proposed that the father serve at least three to four days in custody and

receive the maximum RM20,000 fine.

"The lives of the victims cannot be brought back, but at least a message can be sent to the public to not commit the same offence," he added.