

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



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Trial starts Tuesday for suspect charged in Southern State Parkway crash that killed father and two children

The trial of a 26 year old Queens man charged with leaving the scene of a fiery crash that claimed the lives of a Queens father and his two children on the Southern State Parkway in July of 2015 will start tomorrow (Tuesday 1/10) in the First District Courthouse in Central Islip, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

Oniel Sharpe Jr. allegedly rear-ended the vehicle driven by Ancio Ostane, 37, near exit 41 of the Parkway early on the morning of July 12, 2015. The lone survivor in the vehicle that was struck, Lucnie Bouaz-Ostane, looked on as her husband and their children, 8-year-old Andy and 4-year-old Sephora, died in the blaze.

If convicted of the top charge of aggravated vehicular homicide Sharpe will face up to 25 years in state prison. He is also charged with vehicular manslaughter, manslaughter, leaving the scene of a fatal accident, driving while intoxicated, tampering with physical evidence, following too closely, reckless driving, speeding, failure to maintain lane, failing to signal, and failing to stay in his designated lane.

Sharpe also faces a second trial on 23 charges of criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second degree related to 23 counterfeit cards police found hidden in the steering column of the BMW X-5 he was driving.

The suspect who allegedly drove Sharpe away from the crash scene thereby delaying Sharpe's arrest by over four hours will face trial at a later date. Demetri Stewart of Cambria Heights, 24, is charged with leaving the scene of a fatal accident, hindering prosecution, criminal facilitation, making a sworn false statement and possession of marijuana.

Sharpe is incarcerated in lieu of \$500,000 cash bail in the county jail.

Opening statements in the trial are expected to commence before State Supreme Court Justice Fernando Camacho at 11:00 Tuesday morning.



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Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.