



## OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Ewing Township Man Sentenced for Manslaughter**

A Mercer County judge sentenced Howard Buckalew yesterday to a four-year term of imprisonment, Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported. Under the No Early Release Act, that term carries a mandatory period of parole ineligibility of three years, four months and twenty-six days, as well as a three-year period of parole supervision.

Buckalew, 53, pled guilty last month to second-degree manslaughter for the March 2018 homicide of 58-year-old Jeffrey Pageau. The guilty plea came after a four-week-long trial and a mistrial declared on June 20, 2019, when the jury could not reach a verdict.

Buckalew was also sentenced to a concurrent one-year term of imprisonment, with a mandatory 180-day period of parole ineligibility, for one count of fourth-degree operating a motor vehicle during a period of license suspension. On September 12, 2018, while on pretrial release for the March 2018 homicide, Buckalew was stopped by Ewing Township Police and ticketed for driving while suspended.

The manslaughter plea was a result of charges filed after a March 24, 2018 assault in Hamilton Township. At approximately 8:33 p.m. on March 24, Hamilton Township police responded to the first block of Hartman Drive on a report of a disturbance. Upon arrival, they located Pageau, who was bleeding from his head and laying on a cement patio at the rear of the residence. He was transported to Capital Health Regional Medical Center where he underwent emergency surgery. Pageau remained in the hospital and died from his injuries on March 31, 2018. Witnesses testified at trial that Buckalew confronted and physically assaulted Pageau, causing him to fall backward onto the cement patio and strike his head.

The investigation was conducted by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force and the

Hamilton Township Police Department. Assistant Prosecutors Michael Borgos and Katie Magee prosecuted the case for the State.