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Two more men sentenced for roles in Cal Poly freshman's hazing death

Two men accused of misdemeanor charges in the death of Cal Poly freshman Carson Starkey in 2008 entered no contest pleas Thursday. Adam Marszal and Russell Taylor – both 23 years old – were in court and entered pleas of no contest to misdemeanor hazing resulting in death. They both were sentenced in Judge Linda Hurst's court to 30 days in County Jail and three years probation.

Starkey died of alcohol poisoning after a hazing incident involving drinking while pledging Sigma Alpha Epsilon in December 2008.

Marszal and Taylor also are required to complete 40 hours of community service or give two presentations on the dangers of alcohol and hazing in schools within a year. Hurst recommended they put on the presentations. Starkey's parents both spoke at the hearing today and urged the men to take up the cause to prevent similar situations from occurring.

The Starkeys – who live in Austin, Texas -- have worked with Cal Poly officials and Texas politicians to create immunity for anybody who calls for assistance for a friend in need of medical help because of alcohol consumption.

Marszal and Taylor both apologized to the family.

Two other SAE fraternity members – Zac Ellis and Haithem Ibrahim – also pleaded no contest to misdemeanor hazing causing death and are serving separate sentences.

--Nick Wilson

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