

Michelle Carter's probation prevents pricey book deal, paid interviews

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Michelle Carter may not be behind bars but she is unable to accept any of the lucrative book or television deals that could be heading her way.

Carter was sentenced Thursday in Taunton Juvenile Court to two and a half years in jail including 15 months to be served immediately and the rest suspended until 2022. The sentenced was stayed pending appeal, allowing Carter to remain out while her appeal is heard.

Carter was convicted of manslaughter in June for pressuring her 18-year-old boyfriend Conrad Roy to commit suicide on July 13, 2014. She was 17 years old.

The pair spoke over text messages and phone calls for years with Carter advising against Roy harming himself for many months. Then, weeks before Roy's death, her opinion on suicide swayed.

Carter encouraged him over text messages and phone calls to take his life. When he had second thoughts during a suicide attempt and said he was "scared," Carter told Roy over text to "F----- get back in" his truck as it filled with carbon monoxide.

The next morning, police found Roy's body in the parking lot of a Fairhaven Kmart. An autopsy determined that he died by suicide of carbon monoxide poisoning.

As a condition of her probation, Judge Lawrence Moniz ordered her prohibited from "directly or indirectly" profiting from the crime.

"In this court's assessment that, for whatever reason, part of the motivation for this activity that led to your conviction was a sense of self aggrandizement, this court now orders that you are not to profit from the events of which you now stand convicted and the facts surrounding same," Moniz said during sentencing.

Witnesses took the stand during her trial in June, telling the court of how the teen sought sympathy and attention from friends, her family and Roy's family following his death.



She organized a charity softball tournament in his honor and raised thousands for mental health awareness. At the the same time, prosecutors said, Carter sparred over credit for the event with Roy's best friend.

Moniz said during sentencing he made the not to profit clause a mandate of her probation due to this past "behavior of grandiosity."

Neither she nor representatives acting on her or her family's behalf may profit from the publication of facts or circumstances regarding her involvement in Roy's death.

The ban is part of her conditions of release, and appears to expire once her probation term is finished. Speaking outside the courthouse Thursday, Carter's attorney Joseph Cataldo said should have access to every legal means of profiting from her experiences if her sentence is concluded or her charges are reversed on appeal.

Moniz named several forms of media on the bench, including, but not limited to: books, movies, magazine interviews, television and radio.

This mandate is rare but not unheard of, especially in high-profile cases, said Peter Elikann, a criminal defense attorney and former chair of the Massachusetts Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section.

"He was concerned that she again may want to draw attention to herself," Elikann said, of Moniz.

While banned from profiting from Roy's death, Carter retains her First Amendment right to speak on the matter. She may still write a book, or give an interview regarding her relationship with Roy and his death if doing so for no monetary gain.

Should she try to profit from such a media deal, she would face immediate revocation of her bail, Elikann said. "The court could find a way to negate the deal."

Michelle Carter sentenced to 2.5 years in jail in death of Conrad Roy