

CRIMINAL JUSTICE and the **MEDIA:**

PLEADING GUILTY ON YOUTUBE

Matthew Cordle, 22, posted a three-and-a-half-minute video on YouTube in which he said, "I killed a man." When the video starts, the face of the confessor is blurred out of focus while he describes the events of the night of June 22, 2013. Cordle admits that he was out with a friend and drinking heavily. On the way home, he drove his Toyota Tundra the wrong way on a freeway and hit a Jeep. In the other car was a 61-year-old man, Vincent Canzani, who was declared dead at the scene. In the video, Cordle's face becomes clear as he continues to speak. Through the YouTube video, Cordle took responsibility for the events of that night. He told viewers, "Don't be like me." He claimed to have spoken to lawyers who told him to lie as a way to avoid punishment. But Cordle instead chose to produce the video and post it on a website called "because I said I would." He claimed that if he was charged with criminal

offenses as a result of the video, he would plead guilty. County prosecutors reviewed the video and Cordle's confession and decided to present the evidence to the grand jury to determine if he should be indicted for aggravated vehicular homicide. They eventually charged Cordle with that crime, as well as for operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. In the end, Cordle was sentenced to six months for driving under the influence of alcohol and six years for aggravated vehicular homicide. The sentencing judge also revoked Cordle's driving privileges for the rest of his life.

The goal of the video, according to Cordle, was to help others make better choices, and to convince them not to drink and drive.

Castillo, M. (2013). Drunken driving video confession: "I killed a man."
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