



Michael W. Morrissey  
Norfolk District Attorney

## PRESS RELEASE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Contact: 781.830.4917 or 781.844.9865

*Pending charges represent accusations:  
all defendants are presumed innocent unless  
and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable  
doubt under the United States Constitution.*

### Endangerment case in teen's death ends in admission

[The case against a Dedham couple](#) in the drowning of a young man in 2021 was resolved by disagreed plea in Dedham District Court this morning.

The defendants, Leslie, 56, and James Coughlin, 58, were each charged with furnishing alcohol to a minor and reckless endangerment of a child. The couple a pled guilty to the charge of furnishing alcohol and admitted to sufficient facts for a probable finding of guilt to the reckless endangerment charge in the death of Alonzo Polk in their pool following Mr. Polk's graduation from Dedham High School in 2021.

Assistant District Attorney Sean Riley asked Dedham District Court Judge Paul McCallum to impose a guilty finding on each count and sentence the Coughlins to 2 ½ years in the Norfolk County House of Corrections, with 1 year to serve and the balance suspended during 3 years of probation – with 200 hours of community service during that probation.

Judge McCallum entered a guilty finding on the furnishing alcohol charge and ordered a 1 year sentence, which he suspended for three years. He continued without a finding the reckless endangerment charge. He imposed 50 hours of community service on each charge, for a total of 100 hours.

While the Norfolk DA's Office is aware that there was a confrontation outside the courthouse following the sentencing, that matter is being handled by Dedham Police at this time. They have issued a brief statement via Twitter.