



**For Immediate Release:  
November 24, 2025**

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## **Dangerous Driver Found Guilty of Felony Eluding in Castle Rock after Fleeing from Police**

**Castle Rock, CO-** A Douglas County jury has found 25-year-old Blair Brinley guilty on multiple charges after he fled from law enforcement following an illegal U-turn in Castle Rock.

On October 22, 2024, a Castle Rock Police Officer witnessed Brinley run a red light and make an illegal U-turn on Front Street. Brinley then pulled into a Walmart parking lot and dropped off a passenger. When the officer activated his lights, Brinley sped off, crossing a double yellow line and placing other drivers and pedestrians at risk.

The officer ended the pursuit for public safety reasons and returned to Walmart, where he located the passenger who had been dropped off. The passenger identified the driver as Brinley, a Castle Rock resident.

A Flock camera later confirmed the vehicle's identity. When the officer contacted the vehicle's registered owner, Brinley's mother came on the line and initially denied knowing Brinley. She is not currently facing any charges.

Brinley's criminal history includes prior convictions for eluding, possession of a controlled substance, and assault. He was found guilty of felony eluding, and driving under restraint, among other charges.

"What began as a minor traffic ticket escalated into a serious crime due to the defendant's deliberate decision to disregard the law and endanger others," said Deputy District Attorney Sergio Renteria. "The verdict sends a clear message that actions that jeopardize public safety will be met with accountability."

23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Attorney George Brauchler said Brinley's case underscores the continuing threat posed by repeat dangerous drivers. "A repeat offender and a scofflaw, Brinley is now a criminal magician, having turned a couple of low-level traffic situations into a felony conviction and possible prison time," said Brauchler. "The only thing he has been able to outrun is lawful behavior. In this county, fleeing law enforcement will make your situation worse- every time. Brinley deserves incarceration for putting the community at risk to save his own hide."

Brinley will be sentenced January 16, 2025. He faces up to three years in prison.