

Depressed driver didn't know he hit woman: lawyer

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A man charged in a fatal hit and run was so depressed at the time of the accident he doesn't remember driving into a woman in a Calgary crosswalk, his lawyer says.

Lindsay Giacomelli, 20, died after being hit by an SUV on Bonaventure Drive near Southcentre Mall in March 2005.

Police arrested Colin Jones in Toronto several days later while he was boarding a plane to England. He is charged with leaving the scene of an accident.

Jones's lawyer, Balfour Der, told the court Tuesday that his client isn't responsible for her death because he was clinically depressed and doesn't remember anything.

On the day of the accident, Jones was stressed out from work and the breakup of his marriage. He had had two or three beers, and had gone off his medication.

"He actually could've been in an accident and not have known it," said Der outside court.

"Mr. Jones's problem at the time is that he didn't perceive he was in an accident. His mind was so distracted on other things that he just wouldn't have know until when he left the scene. It wasn't because he was trying to get away, but he just wouldn't have known that he had been in an accident."

A psychologist and a psychiatrist were in court Tuesday testifying that he was depressed and may not have know what he was doing.

The Crown attorney, David Torske, is challenging the contention that Jones should be excused from being responsible for his actions because of depression.



Colin Jones is charged with leaving the scene of an accident in Calgary. (CBC News)