

Judge throws out manslaughter charge in runaway trailer case

□ A Sanford man charged in the death of a middle school student pleaded no contest to vehicular homicide.

By Beth Taylor

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

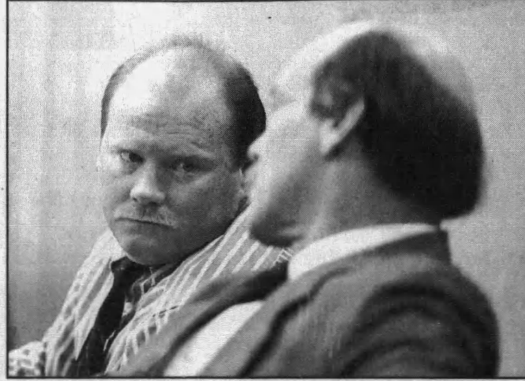
SANFORD — Relatives of a boy killed at his school bus stop by a runaway trailer were angered Friday when a Seminole County judge threw out all but one charge against the man towing

the trailer.

At the end of the prosecution's case, Circuit Judge O.H. Eaton said the state had failed to produce enough evidence to support charges of manslaughter and culpable negligence against James Allen Garner, 31, of Sanford.

That left only one charge — vehicular homicide — for the jury to consider. But Garner decided, after talking with his lawyer, Donald West, to plead no contest and send the jury home.

Garner's sentence, which will be handed down March 2, could range



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James Allen Garner (left), talks with his lawyer, Donald West, during a court session on Wednesday. In October 1992, a trailer — which was being towed by Garner — broke loose and rammed into a group of children waiting for a school bus in Lake Mary.

Please see TRIAL, B-5

Dangerous Trailers.Org Part 1 Judge Throws Out Manslaughter Charge In Killing Of A Child By Loose Trailer

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