hoodline

GREATER TULSA

14-Year-Old Driver Dies in Rollover on Private LeFlore County Road

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Private Rd. & Zafra Rd. — Reported Site of Fatal Rollover - Google Street View

A 14-year-old driver from Wister, Oklahoma, died after the vehicle they were driving overturned on a private road in rural LeFlore County on Friday afternoon. Two passengers riding with them were not injured, according to a crash report from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

The crash happened around 1:15 p.m. on a private road north of Zafra Road, as reported by KNWA FOX24. Troopers say the teen was attempting to turn the vehicle around at an intersection with another private road when it overturned and came to rest on its passenger side. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol has not released the driver's name.

The private road was north of Zafra Road in LeFlore County. Wister itself, the driver's hometown, is a small community of just over 1,000 residents near Lake Wister State Park, per the U.S. Census Bureau.

How a 14-Year-Old Could Be Behind the Wheel

Oklahoma's standard learner permit rules require teens to be at least 15 and a half years old if they're enrolled in driver education, or 16 without it, according to McIntyre Law. But a 2023 state law, House Bill 1962, carved out an exception: teens as young as 14 who live or work for pay on an Oklahoma farm can obtain a Farm Driving Permit, which allows limited driving for farm duties, school, and work, the Southwest Ledger reported at the time. It remains unknown whether the 14-year-old held such a permit, or what type of vehicle he was driving.

Oklahoma law also places responsibility on adults in these situations. Under Oklahoma Statute Title 47 § 6-304, it is unlawful for a parent or legal guardian to knowingly allow a child under 16 to operate a motor vehicle on a public highway without legal authorization.

Risks on Rural Roads

Friday's crash adds to a grim statistical backdrop for teen drivers in Oklahoma. The state's Department of Health has reported that teen drivers have the highest crash rate of any age group, with roughly a quarter of 16-year-olds involved in a crash or cited for a traffic violation during their first year of driving, according to Oklahoma.gov. Rural roads compound that risk: a 2026 national transportation research report found the traffic fatality rate on Oklahoma's non-interstate rural roads reached 2.08 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2023, about 62% higher than on all other roadways in the state, per the TRIP Transportation Research Nonprofit.

Carrying teenage passengers has been linked to a 51% increase in the fatality rate for everyone involved, while driver-death risk rises as more young passengers are added.

No further details about the condition of the road, the vehicle involved, or the identities of those in the car have been released. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol's investigation into Friday's crash remains ongoing.