



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **RTD CONTRACT DRIVER CHARGED IN DEATH**

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged a bus driver with careless driving resulting in death following the death of a passenger last week.

**Tadese Asefaw** (dob: 07-07-76) is charged with *careless driving resulting in death* (T1).

Asefaw, an employee of Veolia Transportation providing bus service under contract to RTD, was driving a Route 16 bus on February 7, 2012. He was eastbound on Colfax Avenue and had stopped at Mariposa, a regular stop on the route, at about 11:45 a.m. The charge alleges that a passenger, Mario Castro, had exited the bus and still had his right hand on the bus to steady himself when Asefaw pulled away from the curb. This caused Castro to lose his balance and fall under the rear wheels of the bus. Castro died several hours later from his injuries.

Asefaw has been served a Criminal Summons and Complaint and is scheduled to appear in Denver County Courtroom 4C on March 19, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. to be formally advised of the charge.

-30-

The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6

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