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# Man charged in stepdaughter's death

## 9-year-old killed in May when train hit car

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**BOCA RATON**—A Boca Raton man who drove into the path of a moving train in May, killing his 9-year-old stepdaughter, was arrested Friday and charged with manslaughter by culpable negligence and vehicular homicide, police said.

Scott Wynkoop, 40, who had been planning to adopt Samantha Rosales before the May 17 crash, was "trying to beat the

train" at the West Hidden Valley Boulevard, Florida East Coast Railway crossing, witnesses told police.

Samantha died hours later at Delray Medical Center.

That day Wynkoop's wife of five years, Maria, had asked him to pick up the Calusa Elementary School second-grader from day care at Advent Lutheran Church in Boca Raton, so Maria could go work out.

Samantha was sitting in the back seat, behind the man she had started calling Dad while he was driving northbound on South Dixie Highway, which runs alongside the FEC tracks. The train was also travelling north.

Wynkoop was about a half-mile from their home at about 4:55 p.m. when he turned abruptly into the path of the train, according to a police report.

One witness told police when she saw what Wynkoop was doing, she knew "there would be an impact with the train as the train was so close."

Another witness said he saw Wynkoop's 2005 Mazda RX-8 "cut catty-corner through the railroad gates," the report said.

After the rear driver's side of the car was hit, the vehicle crashed into the concrete railroad crossing box and came to a stop.

Wynkoop was seen getting out of the car, yelling "my

daughter, my daughter" and then making a call on his cell-phone, reportedly to his wife, and discussing what had just happened, the report said.

One witness told police Wynkoop, who had blood on his arm, was acting crazy and "it didn't seem like he cared about Samantha after the crash," the report said.

Other witnesses said they, and not Wynkoop, came to the aid of the girl, who was "bleeding from the mouth" and hunched over across the back seat, the

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**Scott Wynkoop:** Is charged with manslaughter for the May 17 death of Samantha Rosales.

# Lawyer says girl's mother backs husband '100 percent'

► WYNKOOP *from 1C*

report said. According to the report, she was wearing a seat belt.

Wynkoop's stepmother, Starr Wynkoop, said in May that "when he came to, he started calling for Sammy, but there was no response."

Samantha never regained consciousness.

"Both he and Maria were crushed by the death of their daughter," said Wynkoop's lawyer, Kenneth Lipman of Boca Raton.

Maria Wynkoop told po-

lice there was no reason for her husband to be in a hurry that day, but Lipman, who will be entering a plea of "not guilty" for Wynkoop said "she supports him 100 percent."

"She is absolutely distraught," Lipman said of Maria. "Losing her daughter, now her husband being arrested — it's a great personal tragedy for her."

Wynkoop is being held at the Palm Beach County Jail without bail.

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