

# Driver in pursuit sentenced

## Gets more than a year in jail for speeding away from police

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A Bedford man who led police on a pursuit that topped out at 120 miles per hour on the Lynchburg Expressway in July was sentenced to a year and half in jail on Friday.

Brian Aubrey Burnette, 29, pleaded guilty in December to eluding police, driving on a suspended license and

refusing to submit a blood sample.

On July 8 police were looking for a stolen Pontiac G6 when an officer stopped Burnette driving the car along 15th Street, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee said when Burnette pleaded in December.

Burnette sped off when he was told to get out of the car, Felmlee said.

From there Burnette took Kemper Street to the Expressway heading south.

Burnette drove up to 120 miles per hour down the Expressway before he sped through a red light at the intersection of Old Forest Road and Lakeside Drive, Felmlee said.

On Old Forest Road, Burnette drove on the wrong side of the road and passed through more red lights before police called off the pursuit to avoid endangering other drivers, he said.

A citizen called police after Burnette ditched the car in a neighbor-

hood off Linkhorne Drive and called a cab, Felmlee said.

Burnette was arrested later after police stopped the cab in Madison Heights. Burnette told police he'd smoked crack cocaine and not slept in the three days prior to his arrest.

On Friday, Circuit Judge Leyburn Mosby sentenced Burnette to five years in prison on the eluding charge, suspending three years and nine months. Burnette also was sentenced

to three months in jail for driving on a suspended license, for a total year and half sentence.

Burnette has been in jail since July and will receive credit for the time he's served.

Judge Mosby also suspended Burnette's driver's license for 27 months.

Burnette could face serving out the suspended portion of his sentence if he violates probation once he's released.