

# Teenager faces up to 7 years in prison in stolen car chase

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A Grand Island teenager who led police on a high-speed chase on the Niagara Thruway in a stolen car and narrowly missed a state trooper putting down a spiked strip that eventually stopped him pleaded guilty Monday in Erie County Court.

Darnell Cleveland, 18, pleaded guilty to third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, second-degree reckless endangerment, reckless driving and speeding.

Prosecutors said he stole the car from a Niagara County resident, then went to Grand Island High School, where police eventually found him. But he took off in the car, hitting speeds of 90 mph as police pursued him on the Niagara Thruway from Grand Island to the Town of Tonawanda.

Prosecutors said he swerved at the trooper who was installing the spiked strip on the highway in the Town of Tonawanda, where police arrested him after the strip slowed him down.

He faces up to seven years in prison when he is sentenced June 16 by Judge Michael F. Pietruszka. He is being held on \$50,000 bail.