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Man charged with Ashleigh Hall manslaughter

Homeless man appears in court in County Durham over death of 17-year-old he allegedly met on the internet

Press Association
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Ashleigh Hall, 17, whose body was found in a field near a roadside restaurant in Sedgefield, County Durham. Photograph: Durham police/PA

A homeless man appeared in court today charged with kidnapping and killing a 17-year-old he allegedly met on the internet.

The body of Ashleigh Hall, a childcare student, was found in a field in Sedgefield, County Durham, on Monday evening.

Peter Chapman appeared before Newton Aycliffe magistrates court charged with her manslaughter and kidnap. The 32-year-old, of no fixed address, also faced a charge of failing to give notification of a new address as required for sex offenders.

He was remanded in custody to appear before Teesside crown court on 3 November.

Chapman appeared in the dock flanked by two security officers. He was unshaven and scruffy, wearing jeans and a T-shirt.

He looked at the floor during the five-minute hearing and was told to speak up as he confirmed his name and date of birth. He acknowledged he understood the charges as they were read out in court.

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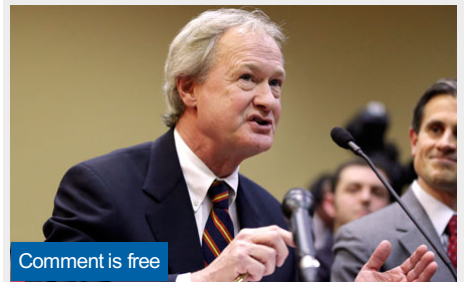
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