

Boy killed in car crash booked for rash driving

The 14-year-old, also booked for causing death due to negligence, was at the wheel, with his family driver by his side, when he crashed through the second-floor car lift, killing himself and the driver

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A day after a 14-year-old boy crashed through the second-floor car lift in his building while reversing a Toyota Etios at high speed, killing himself and his family driver, the Nagpada police have booked him for rash driving (Indian Penal Code Section 279) and causing death due to negligence (IPC Section 304-A).

The boy, Hafeez Patel, who resided at Iqbal Heights, a 22-storey building near YMCA Centre at Mumbai Central, was also booked under Section 3 of the Motor Vehicle Act for driving without a licence, and Section 4 for underage driving, while the driver, Javed Ahmed, who was seated next to the boy when the accident occurred around 11.30 am on Wednesday, was booked for allowing a minor to drive.

Senior Inspector Shivaji Kadam from Nagpada Police Station said the CCTV camera footage confirmed the boy was at the wheel. "The footage

shows the boy driving out of the parking lot, with the driver in the adjoining seat. The boy reversed the car till the lift door, and we suspect that he inadvertently pressed the accelerator instead of the brakes, causing the car to go through the lift doors," Kadam said.

Such was the impact of the collision that the vehicle smashed through the door and crashed around 35 ft from the second floor. At the same time, the elevator carrying another vehicle got stuck on the third floor, and the driver failed to alert anyone because of the weak mobile phone signal.

The driver stuck on the third floor finally managed to call up a relative, who alerted the building maintenance staff. It was 6 pm by the time the bodies were extricated.

The Nagpada police said that prima facie, the boy's parents had no idea that their son was at the wheel, and had in fact filed a missing person complaint when they weren't able to contact him.

"The boy's father had handed over the car keys to the driver, who in turn



The CCTV footage shows a black car pulling out of its slot in the parking area. The footage also shows rescue workers next to the mangled remains of the car

allowed the boy to drive. We will record the boy's parents' statements after they recover from the shock of their son's death," Kadam said.

The CCTV camera footage also shows a man present at the spot when the accident occurred. The footage shows the man rushing out of a washroom on the second floor, which is accessed by the servants working in the building.

"We can see a man entering the washroom just before the car drove through the path leading to the lift. After the car is seen going through the lift door, the man is seen rushing out of the washroom till the lift door. He is then seen running back towards the



washroom," Kadam said.

The police are tracing the person, who will be made a witness in the case. Deputy Commissioner of Police

(Zone 3) S Jayakumar said, "There are 80 flats in the building and efforts are on to trace the man. He will be made a witness in the case."