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Mark Spegal, 16, killed as result of single-car accident Friday night

Mark Spegal had the looks to be a model, a job that offered him a way to make money to buy a car.

"He loved a car — like any normal 16-year-old," said his mother, Dr. Doris V. Spegal of Morning View.

At 8:30 Friday evening, just after Mark and two friends took off to go out, his mother's 1984 Ford fishtailed, skidded out of control for more than 60 feet on northbound I-75 near Chambers Road, and flipped over.

"He undoubtedly was traveling at a high rate of speed. He liked to drive fast," Dr. Spegal said.

Mark, 16, was thrown from the car. He died at 3:45 p.m. Saturday at Booth Memorial Hospital.

Mark's friends, Jarrod Robinson, 17, and Ryan Christy, 20, were treated at Booth and released.

None of the boys was wearing a seatbelt, Christy said yesterday.

"I was thrown from the car like Mark was. I don't know why it happened to him — maybe he hit into the steering wheel,"

Christy said.

"I don't really know what happened — I was sitting in the back, behind Mark. He was driving. When I sit in the back I don't really pay much attention to the driving.

"My window was closed, and I must've gone through it, cause my left shoulder — they picked a bunch of glass out of it."

Christy said none of the boys had been drinking. "We were just leaving to go out," he said. "We hadn't been anywhere."

Boone County Coroner Don Stith said Spegal suffered a lacerated liver, but the exact cause of death won't be known for a while. "I suspect he may have died from pretty severe internal bleeding," Stith said.

Dr. Spegal, who stayed with her son until he died, said: "His liver was all torn to pieces and his chest was pretty bad. His lungs were full of bloody fluid. We couldn't get enough oxygen into his blood. He actually was brain dead.

"He had such a strong healthy body — his kidneys weren't damaged nor was his

heart." Those organs were donated for transplant.

Dr. Spegal, a native of southern Kenton County, adopted Mark in Dallas, Texas, when he was 5 weeks old. She practiced medicine there for 29 years, and has practiced in Walton for the last 10 years.

Mark had attended Simon Kenton High School, and last year graduated from the Barabzon Academy modeling school in Cincinnati.

Modeling "was just to get money for college and to buy a car," Dr. Spegal said.

"He was going to study business in college. He was going to be close to a millionaire by the time he was 30. He was smart — sharp as a tack. Too smart. And stubborn," she said.

In addition to his mother, Mark is survived by uncles, aunts and 14 cousins.

Services will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow at Wilmington Baptist Church, Fiskburg. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 tonight at Chambers & Grubbs Funeral Home, Walton. Burial will be in Wilmington Cemetery.