



# NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**Adam Gerhardt**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)**  
**National Transportation Safety Board**

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**Date: 2/4/2022**  
**Person Contacted: Kelsey Garland (Daughter of Student Pilot)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA189**

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## **Narrative:**

Ms. Kelsey Garland provided an email response to questions posed by the investigator-in-charge: The following contains excerpts of the summary:

**1. What were the circumstances around the purpose of flight? We were informed from one source that Mr. Garland was flying to Kentucky to see his father in the hospital, who had been recently hospitalized. Do you know if this is true, and was the hospitalization of his father an urgent family matter, or was the hospitalization a more routine nonlife threatening event?**

*1. Yes, that is true. My grandfather was hospitalized unexpectedly. He recently has been having issues with his heart and had passed out and was in the hospital for some days. His health was getting worse and my dad wanted to go to be there for him and with him, as he had just been released and was going to have to take things easy for a few days. I can reach out to my grandmother and see if she can provide me with his paperwork showing when his was admitted into & discharged out of the hospital! And also my grandmother (the passenger) was going on a vacation with her sister, whom also lives in Murray, KY. So she was on board to get to her sister who was insisting that they must be there by Tuesday because they had a trip planned. That is why he made the decision to go ahead and still go.*

**2. It is our understanding that Mr. Garland planned to depart around 1PM or 2PM on April 20th, however, the flight did not depart until 5:20PM. Do you have any knowledge to why the flight departed around 5PM, versus earlier in the day? Was that always the plan, or was there a circumstance that delayed the departure?**



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2. *That is also correct, his plan was to depart no later than 2 pm on Tuesday April 20, 2021. The reason for the delayed departure was that his back up gps (iPad) service was not connecting to the internet therefore leaving him without a connection. He does not fly without all required or necessary tools or equipment! So he was at the T-Mobile store since 11am trying to get the issue resolved, and they were not able to get that completed until 4:45 pm. But with my grandmas sister insisting that they make it there by Tuesday he looked at the weather and saw that he could make a detoured route where the weather was not as bad.*

### **3. Did Mr. Garland share any other details pertaining to the flight that would be pertinent to the investigation?**

*3. I was there with him and my grandmother when they were taking off, (I also was training to be a pilot as well)I watched him do all his pre flight check list watched him listen to the weather. He did everything he was supposed to do! My dad loved flying, being a pilot has been my dads dream since he was in high school, he did not and would not ever intentionally do anything to harm his own much less his mothers life! My dad loved life on earth, of course everybody goes through things it's called life, but he wouldn't ever run into a storm head on, on purpose. And also I read on the preliminary report where it quotes my dad disobeying a direct order from the control tower. Is there a black box recording with that on it or is that just what was said was said? Because I know my father, he was my best friend we did everything together and I know how serious he is about flying. That just sounds 1000% completely opposite of what he would say/do.*

#END#