

SFChronicle
Joan Kennedy
Accused in Crash

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Fairfax, Va.

Joan Kennedy, wife of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, (Dem-Mass.) was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol yesterday after her convertible was involved in a three-car accident, Fairfax county police said.

Police said Mrs. Kennedy was administered a breathalyzer test but would not disclose the results. The charge lodged against her is the only charge in the state of Virginia if alcohol or drugs are detected, no matter how much is found, police said.

An aide to the Massachusetts senator said Mrs. Kennedy was alone in the car

when it hit the rear of another car at an intersection at 1:45 p.m.

Mrs. Kennedy has spent time in recent months in a New Canaan, Conn., sanitarium and a California rest home because of fatigue and mental strain resulting from the illness of her oldest son, Edward Jr., who lost a leg to bone cancer.

Richard C. Drayne, the senator's press secretary, said Mrs. Kennedy left the California clinic last month to join her husband at the Boston news conference September 23 in which he announced he would not run for president in 1976.

Drayne said Kennedy went home to be with his



AP Wirephoto

JOAN KENNEDY
Drunk driving charge

wife when he received word of the accident in mid-afternoon.

Associated Press