

## Union County State's Attorney

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### Press Release - For Immediate Release

Elk Point, S.D. – State's Attorney Jerry A. Miller said today that Michael Groff, a 39 year old Bellevue, NE resident, was sentenced on March 12, 2012 on one count of forgery, a class 5 felony. Groff received a suspended three year sentence to the state penitentiary and one year of supervised probation. Groff was sentenced to thirty days in the Union County Jail with work release. Groff has the option of either arranging to spend his thirty days in a jail close to his residence for work purposes, or alternatively, Groff will have to turn himself in at the Union County Jail on March 30, 2012. Groff received a fine of two-thousand dollars.

This case was investigated by Trooper Clay Eberhart of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. On October 5, 2011 Trooper Eberhart stopped Groff for speeding on interstate 29 northbound at about mile-marker 24. Groff identified himself as a Michael Gibbons. The name and address that Groff provided identified a person whose license was revoked. Groff maintained this fiction throughout the contact, arrest, booking process, and bonded out under the name Michael Gibbons. The name "Gibbons" is the same name as Groff's fiancé's ex-husband. Groff signed numerous documents under the fictitious name throughout the arrest and booking process.