
November 30, 2017

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Beulah Martin
Age: 29
State of residence: IA
Criminal File Number: 16-390
Incident Date: September 1, 2016
Indictment Date: November 2, 2016
Arraignment Hearing: November 28, 2016
Charges Files: Ct. 1: Bigamy, SDCL 22-22A-1, (F6) 2/4K
Ct. 2: Offering False or Forged Instrument for Filing, Registering, or Recording, SDCL 22-11-28.1, (F6) 2/4K
Change of Plea Date: March 10, 2017
Date of Sentencing: April 11, 2017
Convicted of: Ct. 1: Bigamy, SDCL 22-22A-1, (F6) 2/4K
Arresting Officer: Deputy Mike Bucholz - UCSO
Defense Attorney: Jeffrey Myers
Prosecution Attorney: Jerry A. Miller & Erin Handke

Case Synopsis:

On October 27, 2016, Union County Sheriff's Office received a request from Senator Charles Grassley's office requesting that the UCSO look into allegation made by the Defendant, Beulah Martin's father, about his daughter being married to two people at the same time. After getting the request Chief Deputy Mike Bucholz, checked into the allegations and was able to locate a marriage certificate between Beulah Martin and Shawn Mapes in Woodbury County, IA dated July 18, 2015, and confirmed with the Woodbury County Clerk of Courts that there was no divorce on file. The Deputy then checked with Union County, SD, and found a Marriage Certificate between Beulah Martin and Ahmad Gill, dated September 1, 2016. On the Marriage License Ms. Martin stated that she was divorced. Ms. Martin was Indicted by the Grand Jury for Bigamy and Offering False or Forged Instrument for Filing, Registering, or Recording.

Sentencing Synopsis:

the Court being satisfied that the ends of Justice and the best interests of the public as well as the Defendant will be served thereby and the Court receiving a plea of GUILTY to a crime that is not punishable by life in prison and the Defendant never before having been convicted of a crime which would constitute a felony in this State, this Court exercises its judicial clemency

under SDCL 23A-27-13 and with the consent of the Defendant suspends the imposition of the sentence. It is, therefore,

AS TO THE CHARGE Count 1: Bigamy, a violation of SDCL 22-22A-1, a class 6 felony, It is further ORDERED that the Defendant shall be placed on un-supervised probation for the term of Six (6) months under the following terms and conditions:

1. The Defendant shall obey all federal, state and local laws.
2. The Defendant shall pay all monetary obligations as Ordered by this Court as a term of satisfying Defendant's sentence. It is FURTHER Ordered that the Defendant shall pay all financial obligations within Six (6) months or by October 11, 2017.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant shall pay the following amounts to the Union County Clerk of Courts (209 East Main Street, ~ Suite 230, Elk Point, SD 57025): Court Costs of One Hundred Four (\$104.00) Dollars; and a Fine in the amount of Seven Hundred Fifty (\$750.00) Dollars.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant shall pay the following amounts Ordered by the Court – To the Union County Auditor (209 East Main Street, ~ Suite 200, Elk Point, SD 57025): Court Appointed Attorneys Fees in the amount of One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Three (\$1633.00) Dollars. It is further ORDERED that Union County is awarded a Judgment for said Court Appointed Attorney Fees in this matter.

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is Beulah Martin's first felony offense on her criminal record, which if, she is successful on her un-supervised probation, then the Court will seal this file and it will be removed from her public criminal history record. Through this process the Court signed an Order declaring the marriage between Beulah Martin and Ahmad Gill as Null and Void.