

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Ryan Lappegard
Age: 21
City and State of residence: Watertown, SD
Criminal File Number: 13-101/13-119
Originally Convicted of: Poss. of a Controlled Substance (two counts), 22-42-5, (F5)
Original Date of Sentence: July 23, 2013
Original Arresting Officer: Brian Schnabel
1st Probation Violation: Alcohol Violation; Trespassing; and Failure to Pay Financial Obligations
Date of Disposition: June 9, 2014
Arresting Officer: Kelly Gregg, Court Service Officer; and a Water Town Police Officer

Case Synopsis:

In this case Ryan Lappegard was arrested after he was stopped for a traffic violation, and the police officer observed a meth lab using the one-pot system in the passenger seat of the vehicle he was driving. Upon further investigation it was found out that Ryan Lappegard along with his cousin had made several purchases of pseudoephedrine at various locations. Originally the Court sentenced Lappegard to participate in a religious based treatment program called Teen Challenge. This program is run out of Brookings, South Dakota. While Lappegard was on a furlough from the program, he was found in Watertown trespassing on some property and intoxicated. Due to this breach of trust, Lappegard was taken into custody for a probation violation and was unsuccessfully discharged from the Teen Challenge program.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the original charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance in file 13-101, Ryan Lappegard was sentenced to seven (7) years to the South Dakota State Penitentiary and the Court suspended five (5) of those years. Lappegard will have to serve two (2) years on this sentence.

On the original charge of Possession of a Substance in file 13-119, Ryan Lappegard was sentenced to seven (7) years to the South Dakota State Penitentiary and the Court suspended six (6) of those years. Lappegard will have to serve one (1) years on this sentence.

Both sentences were to run consecutive with one another. The Court also ordered that Lappegard would have to pay all previously unpaid financial obligations as a term of parole, as well as all new prosecution costs and new court-appointed attorney fees.

Criminal History:

This is Ryan Lappegard's third and fourth career felony convictions.