

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Elk Point, S.D. – State's Attorney Jerry A. Miller announces today the conviction of Bruce Collins, age 59. Bruce Collins, was convicted at a jury trial following two days of testimony which started on August 22 and ended on August 23, 2011. The jury found Collins guilty on the following six counts: Count I, Possession with the Intent to Distribute (Methamphetamine), a class 4 felony; Count II, Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine), a class 4 felony; Count III, Possession of a Controlled Substance (Cocaine), a class 4 felony; Count IV, Possession of Marijuana, a class 1 misdemeanor; Count V, Ingestion, a class 1 misdemeanor; and Count VI, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, a class 2 misdemeanor.

Following the jury's verdict, Collins admitted to the state's additional charge alleging Collins to be a habitual offender. The effect of Collins' admission to this charge will result in enhancing each felony charge one level. Therefore, each felony charge that was originally a class four felony is now enhanced to a class three felony. Each Class three felony carries a potential maximum sentence of a thirty thousand dollar fine, or fifteen years in the South Dakota State Penitentiary, or both for each offense. Additionally, as this is the second time that Collins has been convicted of Possession with the Intent of Distributing, the Court is required to sentence Collins to no less than ten years of unsuspended time in the South Dakota State Penitentiary. Collectively, the Court could sentence Collins to as much as ninety thousand dollars in fines, or forty-five years in the South Dakota State pen, or both.

Collins was indicted on the above charges on March 3, 2011. Collins is in custody awaiting sentencing. Collins is scheduled to be sentenced on September 26, 2011, at 11:30 a.m.