

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

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Elk Point, S.D. – State's Attorney Jerry A. Miller reports that Patrick Saunders, 34, North Sioux City, SD, will serve one-hundred eighty (180) days in the Union County Jail after he admitted on February 17, 2011 to Failure to Comply with terms of suspended sentence on six (6) counts of Theft by Insufficient Funds Check. The Honorable Tami Bern, Magistrate Court Judge, reiterated to Saunders that she strictly enforces the terms of her sentences, and imposed the full thirty (30) days jail on each of the six (6) counts, one-hundred and eighty (180) days total, for failure to provide restitution to the victims in the bad check cases.

Saunders had previously pled guilty on January 20, 2010 to six (6) counts of Theft by Insufficient Funds Check. He was sentenced on February 18, 2010 to: \$66 fine on two of the counts, \$54 court costs on each of the six counts, and 30 days in the Union County Jail on each of the six counts suspended on the conditions that: 1) Saunders have no similar offenses for 360 days, and 2) Saunders repay restitution to the victims in the cases (totaling \$930.00) within 30 days.

When Saunders failed to comply with the terms of the suspended jail sentence by refusal to make any payments toward restitution in the matters, the Union County States Attorney's Office filed a Motion to Revoke the Suspended Jail Sentence. A bench warrant was issued for Saunders's arrest on December 16, 2010, and Saunders was subsequently held to answer to the charges.

Saunders will serve the full one-hundred and eighty (180) day suspended sentence for failure to comply. Judge Bern indicated that she would consider a modification for early release should Saunders pay the restitution in full during his time in jail.