

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 Donna Russell, a 43 year old Beresford, SD resident was sentenced on November 26, 2012 on one count of forgery, a class five felony. Russell will serve three years out of a five year sentence to the state penitentiary in which two years were suspended. On the forgery charge, Russell was ordered to pay Court Costs of one hundred and four dollars; Prosecution Costs of ten dollars; and Court-Appointed Attorney fees in the amount of three hundred and ninety-three dollars and sixty cents.

Russell plea agreement allows this court to address criminal restitution order for offenses in other jurisdictions as a means of efficiency within the criminal justice system. Russell required to pay the following in restitution as part of a global plea agreement:

- \$210.57 to Fiesta Foods, Beresford, SD;
- \$505.10 to Jet Truck Stop, Beresford, SD;
- 73.66 to Pump N Pak, Vermillion, SD;
- \$145.01 to Casey's, Beresford, SD;
- 303.18 to Casey's, Lennox, SD;
- \$433.76 to Total Stop, Beresford, SD;
- 174.50 to Sunshine Foods, Tea, SD;
- 148.97 to Sunshine Foods, Lennox, SD;
- 138.48 to Cubby's Inc., Tea, SD;
- 277.12 to Roadway Express, Sioux Falls, SD;
- 57.40 to Total Stop, Lennox, SD;

Russell was identified as the person who passed a forged check on a nonexistent account against a nonexistent company to a Union County merchant. This case was investigated by Beresford Police officer, Jason Amdahl. Through that investigation, this case was developed in which it was discovered that Russell was passing checks while wearing various wigs and other accessories to changer her appearance. This investigation has created an additional felony drug case in Lincoln County. Russell may also be facing multiple felony files in Minnehaha County for her passing of sixteen known forged checks. This is Russell's fifth felony conviction. Russell has a criminal history in at least four states. Russell's other felony convictions include possession of controlled substances, burglary, and engaging in prostitution.