

# 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 Dudley Janis, a 55 year old Beresford, SD resident plead guilty and was sentenced on December 7, 2012 on the charge of aggravated assault, a class three felony. Janis was sentenced to serve six years of a fifteen year sentence suspending nine years. Janis is ordered to pay the following for the aggravated assault charge; Court Costs of one hundred and four dollars; Prosecution Costs of five hundred and seven dollars and seventy-eight cents; and Court-Appointed Attorney fees in the amount of three thousand two hundred and twenty dollars and sixty-seven cents. A term of the sentence also requires that Janis not have any contact with his victim for the full fifteen years while he is supervised by the department of corrections.

On July 7, 2012, Janis returned home after work and after having consumed alcohol. Janis told the court that he could not recall much of what occurred due to his self-induced intoxicated state. The victim in this case, Janis' wife of four years, reported a horrifying scene in which Janis strangled her to unconsciousness two separate times while in the home and while he was telling her that he was going to kill her. Janis' wife described how she tricked her husband into checking on their dog that she said was outside. Janis caught his wife as she attempted to escape from the trailer and her attacker. The victim then describes how she was taken down on the steps and Janis stepped on the back of her neck, now strangling his wife with his boot, as her throat was against the step. The altercation was first overheard and then observed by a neighbor who then called 911. The victim grabbed a rot-iron plant stand and with both hands swung the plant stand over her head making contact with Janis' head on two occasions. This plant stand caused a significant gash in Janis head which bleed profusely over his victim, the stairs where the final portion of the assault was taking place, and the wall of the trailer.

Officer Andy Minihan of the Beresford Police Department was the first officer on scene and the investigator on this file. Further investigation determined that this is the fourth time that Janis has been charged with Aggravated Assault. A former girlfriend and victim, Millie Blue Bird, from Sioux Falls, SD testified at a motion hearing for 'other acts evidence' on this file to a brutal beating in which Janis stated that he was going to kill her and burier her in a snow bank where she would not be found until spring. When Janis was questioned about this previous incident he could not recall any details due to his self-induced intoxicated state. Janis has been convicted of at least six felonies. Janis is also a registered sex offender. This is Janis' first felony aggravated assault conviction.