

## Union County State's Attorney

209 East Main Street ~ Suite # 140  
Elk Point, South Dakota 57025 ~ 2327  
Telephone (605) 356-2666 / Facsimile (605) 761-0199

Jerry A. Miller  
State's Attorney  
ucsa@iw.net

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### Press Release - For Immediate Release

Alexis Tracy  
Deputy State's Attorney  
ucdsa@iw.net

Elk Point, S.D. – State's Attorney Jerry A. Miller said today that Lynn Klunder, 38, Elk Point, SD, entered a guilty plea and was sentenced in the Magistrate Division of the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court on one count of Contributing to the Abuse of Child, a class 1 misdemeanor. A class 1 misdemeanor carries a maximum sentence of 1 year in the county jail and / or a fine of \$2,000. On this charge, Klunder was denied her request for a suspended imposition of sentence and the court imposed a 180 day sentence to the county jail, with 175 days suspended upon the conditions that the Defendant: have no offenses involving the use or threatened use of violence for 360 days; have no offenses involving contributing to abuse or neglect of a child for 360 days; comply with any requirements if placed on the central child abuse registry; successfully complete anger management counseling; and repay court appointed attorney fees. Klunder was also ordered to pay a three hundred (\$300.00) dollar fine plus court costs.

For the Defendant's guilty plea to the misdemeanor child abuse offense of the two year old victim, the state had agreed to dismiss one count of Simple Assault. During the sentencing hearing, Deputy State's Attorney Alexis Tracy cited aggravating factors in this case including: the severity of the injuries sustained including bruising and welts on the child's backside; that the incident stemmed over a potty training accident of the two year old victim who was a child attending Klunder's home daycare; the defendant's continued lies and blame placed upon others, including blame upon another young child in her care, as well as the re-victimization of the family of the two year old victim in the community; and that the defendant has refused to voluntarily shut down her child care operation.

The case was investigated by Chief Deputy Mike Bucholz with the Union County Sheriff's Office and indicted by the Union County Grand Jury on January 26, 2012.