

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Elk Point, S.D. State's Attorney Jerry A. Miller announced today that Joanne Fester, a 46 year old Sioux City, IA resident was sentenced on September 23, 2013 to one felony count of Possession of Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine), a class 4 felony. Fester was arrested on at the VIP gaming lounge in North Sioux City. Fester was with a male friend who had a warrant for his arrest. When North Sioux City Police Officer, Don Eagleman, approached Fester and her male friend, Fester opened her purse to retrieve her identification. Officer Eagleman observed drug paraphernalia inside Fester's purse. Fester agreed to provide a sample of her urine for testing. Ms. Fester was found to have 21,000 nanograms of methamphetamine and 4,200 nanograms of amphetamine, which is the metabolite for methamphetamine, in her body/system.

On September 23, 2013, the Court sentenced Joanne Fester to a suspended 10 year sentence to the South Dakota State Penitentiary with 5 years of supervised probation. Fester was also sentenced to spend 66 days incarcerated in the Union County Jail. Fester received credit for the time that she spent incarcerated prior to sentencing. Fester must also pay her court costs, prosecution costs, and repay Union County for providing her a court-appointed attorney. This is Fester's first felony conviction, however, Fester's criminal file was aggravated by the fact that she tested positive for methamphetamine use proven through six consecutive drug patch violations while released on pre-trial bond.