

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Paul Koepke
Age: 24
City and State of residence: Fargo, ND
Criminal File Number: 14-224
Charged with: Ct. 1: Possession of a Schedule 2 Controlled Substance (Methadone) (F5) 22-42-5
Ct. 2: Ingestion of a Schedule 2 Controlled Substance (Methadone) (F5) 22-42-5.1
Ct. 3: Ingestion of a Schedule 2 Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine) (F5) 22-42-5.1
Offense Date: May 15, 2014
Indicted on: June 25, 2014
Arraignment Date: July 21, 2014
Change of Plea Date: September 15, 2014
Date of Sentence: November 3, 2014
Convicted of: Ct. 1: Possession of a Schedule 2 Controlled Substance (Methadone) (F5) 22-42-5
Arresting Officer: Trooper Trent Heuertz – South Dakota Highway Patrol
SA Brian Schnabel – South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation
Bond: \$500 Cash Bond – Set by Judge Jensen on 7/11/2014
Defendant's Attorney: Rachel Rasmussen

Case Synopsis:

On May 15, 2014 at about 5:30 p.m. a concerned motorist stopped to talk to the Trooper Heuertz who was sitting in the crossover watching traffic at about mile-marker 15 of Interstate 29. The concerned motorist advised that a vehicle that was about 1 mile behind him was driving erratically and was all over the road. The suspected vehicle passed the trooper's location and the Trooper Heuertz pulled in behind the vehicle and observed the vehicle's driver inability to keep the vehicle in a single driving lane. The driver of this vehicle was identified as Paul Koepke. Trooper Heuertz noted that the driver was visibly shaking. The Trooper observed a prescription bottle with the lid removed near the driver which was found to contain liquid Methadone. The prescription bottle was not in the Koepke's name and the owner of the prescription was not present. Koepke denied using the Methadone. Trooper Heuertz seized Koepke's cell phone which was found to contain drug transaction material of purchasing illegal substances at a low price and selling them at a higher price. Koepke's urine was tested and was found to be positive for Methadone @ 7,181 ng/ml (of which Koepke does not have a prescription for this substance); and Amphetamine @ 60,952 ng/ml (indicating an abuse of that which Koepke is prescribed); and Methamphetamine @ 11,951 ng/ml.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of ingestion of a schedule 1 or 2 controlled substance, Paul Koepke received a five (5) year suspended sentence and a requirement to successfully complete four (4) years of supervised probation. The court further ordered that Koepke serve seventy-six (76) days in the Union County Jail and then gave Koepke credit for the sixteen (16) days he spent

incarcerated prior to being sentenced. Koepke was ordered to serve thirty (30) days in the Union County Jail starting on January 15, 2015 and another thirty (30) days on January 15, 2016, however these days may be suspended by his assigned court services officer if Koepke is doing well on probation. Koepke was ordered and required to pay all, restitution, fine, court costs, and prosecution costs, as well as his court-appointed attorney fees.

Criminal History:

This is Paul Koepke's second career felony conviction on his record.