

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Thomas Dennison
Age: 39
City and State of residence: Jefferson, SD
Criminal File Number: 13-166
Convicted of: 4th Offense Driving Under the Influence (F5) 32-23-4.6
Date of Sentence: February 24, 2014
Arresting Officer: Deputy Jon Feller - UCSO
Deputy Jason Westcott - UCSO

Case Synopsis:

Thomas Dennison was being followed Deputy Feller on I-29 northbound at mile marker 4, as Dennison was swerving within his lane. Deputy Feller watched the vehicle swerve from center line to fog line several times until mile marker nine where the traffic stop initiated. Dennison did not have a license in his possession, but when he was asked to provide his name, Dennison gave his brother's name. It was also determined that Dennison was driving while his license was revoked. Deputy Feller also detected the odor of intoxicants coming from Dennison during the stop. Dennison completed field sobriety tests at the direction of Deputy Feller and it was determined that Dennison was driving while under the influence of alcohol. Dennison was placed under arrest and was asked to provide a sample of his blood for testing. Dennison's blood sample tested positive for alcohol at a level of .203% blood alcohol content.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of 4th offense driving while under the influence, the Court sentenced Dennison to five years in the South Dakota State Penitentiary with three years suspended. The Court further ordered that Dennison must pay all, restitution, fines, court costs, prosecution costs, and court-appointed attorney fees. Dennison was taken into custody immediately after the sentence was handed down by the Judge.

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is Thomas Dennisons's third career felony and at least his eighth career driving under the influence type conviction.