
September 15, 2014

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Benjamin Hunt
Age: 23
City and State of residence: South Sioux City, NE
Criminal File Number: 12-188
Original Convicted of: Possession of Controlled Substance (Synthetic Marijuana), (F4) 22-42-5
Original Sentencing Date: August 20, 2012
Probation Violation: Defendant absconded from supervised probation; Defendant failed to follow the recommendation of his treatment provider; Defendant failed to make any payments on his financial obligations.
Date of Re-Sentence PV1: November 25, 2013
Date of Re-Sentence PV2: February 10, 2014
Date of Re-Sentence PV3: July 7, 2014
Date of Re-Sentence PV4: September 15, 2014
Arresting Officer / Agency: Kelly Gregg – Vermillion CSO

Case Synopsis:

On March 5, 2012 while the Union County Sheriff's Office was assisting the DEA in the execution of one of three search warrants that the DEA was executing on that day involving Gregory Enright, the lease holder of a rural residence (small farm stead) that was being used to manufacture K2 in the rural Elk Point, SD area. Hunt was an employee and associate of Gregory Enright, who was assisting in the manufacturing, weighing and bagging of the K2 product at this rural residence. Hunt also admitted that he had recently used K2 and provided a urine sample for testing. That urine sample was positive for a controlled substance which is known as synthetic marijuana, a schedule 1 drug having no medical benefit at all and deemed to be highly addictive. Hunt was provided with K2 as part of his association and employment with Enright. Governor Dugaard signed an emergency bill into law making many forms of K2 a felony to possess on February 23, 2012.

Case Synopsis of Probation Violation #3:

On December 23, 2013, Benjamin Hunt was cited by the Sioux City Police Department for consuming alcohol and causing a domestic disturbance. Hunt's preliminary breath test registered .127%. Hunt's probation officer decided that Hunt's actions warranted a violation back to his home jurisdiction instead of the probationary sanctions that were available to the court service's officer. The violation then indicated that Hunt has made no attempt to pay his financial obligations. This is Hunt's second probation violation on this file since being convicted.

Case Synopsis of Probation Violation #4:

On July 25, 2014, Benjamin Hunt was belligerent and out-of-control at the treatment facility and was asked to leave and failed to follow the directions for treatment. On July 29, 2014 Benjamin Hunt's attitude was addressed at the morning session and there after failed to return for the afternoon session and has failed to appear at every session thereafter.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance, a class four felony, the Court granted Hunt a seven year sentence with two years suspended on the condition that Hunt pay all

of the previously ordered financial obligations as well as the new court-appointed attorney fees; that he obey all laws; and that he comply with the terms and condition of parole. Hunt was given credit for the 198 days he spent incarcerated throughout this file and his four probation violations.

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is Benjamin Hunt's fourth probation violation on this felony charge and this is Hunt's second career felony conviction.