

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name:	Consuelo Valdez
Age:	40
City and State of residence:	Sioux City, IA
Criminal File Number:	14-157
Convicted of:	Possession of a Schedule 2 Controlled Substance 22-42-5 (F5) 5/10
Offense Date:	May 14, 2014
Indictment:	May 28, 2014
Arraignment Date:	June 9, 2014
Change of Plea Date:	August 18, 2014
Date of Sentence:	August 18, 2014
Arresting Officer:	Lt. Richard Headid – North Sioux City Police Department
Bond:	\$7,500 C/S
Attorney:	Rachel Rasmussen

Case Synopsis:

On May 15, 2014, Lt. Headid was called to the respond to the Triple Crown Casino by a manager. Lt. Headid took a report that a patron had taken a salad spoon from the buffet and that it was found in the bathroom trash with burn marks and a drug substance on the spoon. Lt. Headid identified the drug substance as methamphetamine and determined that the patron had used the salad spoon to cook and prepare methamphetamine for intravenous use. Lt. Headid found the patron based upon the manager's description at 4 Aces. The patron was identified as Alejandro Holguin. Holguin was attempting to avoid the officers looking for him and was found getting into the vehicle of a Consuelo Valdez. Lt. Headid questioned Holguin who admitted that he had recently injected himself with methamphetamine at the Triple Crown Casino after using the salad spoon that he had taken from the buffet. A search of the vehicle revealed additional paraphernalia and a drug like substance. Both Holguin and Valdez were arrested. As this case progressed, family members advised the State, the Defense, and the Court that Holguin has a serious issues with different types of substances and a history of retail theft to support his habit. A records check revealed that Valdez has a history of distribution of controlled substances in two states. Valdez provided a urine sample which tested positive for amphetamine @ 9,771 ng/ml; and methamphetamine @ 60,562 ng/ml.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of possession of schedule 2 controlled substance, a violation of SDCL 22-42-5, as a class 5 felony, the court sentenced Valdez to 5 years suspended execution of sentence with 4 years of supervised probation. Valdez was ordered to pay court costs of \$104.00; prosecution costs of \$10.00; fees repaid to the South Dakota Drug Fund in the amount of \$99.00; a find in the amount of \$300.00; and court-appointed attorney fees in the amount of \$\$861.30. It was further ordered that Valdez serve 123 days in the Union County Jail, of which Valdez received credit for the 63 days that she spent prior to the disposition of this file. Valdez is to

serve 30 days starting on August 1, 2015 and 20 days on August 1, 2016, however these 60 days may be suspended by Valdez's court-services officer if Valdez is complying with all of her terms of her supervised probation.

Criminal History:

This is Consuelo Valdez's third career felony conviction.