

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Kurtis Braaten
Age: 25
City and State of residence: Hudson, SD
Criminal File Number: 15-227
Offense Occurred On: July 11, 2015
Indicted: July 29, 2015
Plead Guilty On: July 29, 2015
Convicted of: Ct. 2: Aggravated Assault (Domestic), SDCL 22-18-1(8), (F3)
Ct. 5: Interfering with Emergency Communications, SDCL 49-31-29.2(1), (M1)
Sentencing Date: October 26, 2015

Case Synopsis:

On July 11, 2015 law enforcement was called to the Braaten residence for an interrupted 911 call for assistance. Officers took a report and found consistent evidence to support that a domestic altercation had occurred. Through interviews, it was reported that Kurtis Braaten started throwing items at his wife in the bedroom while she was holding a child in her arms. This was followed by Kurtis Braaten, on three occasions throwing his wife to the floor. On each occasion Kurtis applied pressure to his wife's neck and throat area. Another child also observed the altercation. Amy Braaten was able to call 911, however while she was giving her address, Kurtis took her phone and disabled and / or hid her phone in an effort to prevent a call for assistance. Kurtis Braaten entered a guilty plea to one count of strangulation and one count of interfering with emergency communications.

Sentencing Synopsis:

The Court sentenced Braaten to the penitentiary for a term of ten years. The Court suspended ten years of that penitentiary sentence and ordered Braaten successfully complete a five-year term of supervised probation. The Court further ordered that Braaten do / comply with the following:

- That Braaten not enter any establishment that obtains its primary source of income through the sale of alcohol (no bar rule).
- That Braaten successfully complete six months of an alcohol monitoring system (SCRAM);
- That Braaten complete anger management treatment program;
- That Braaten serve 40 days in the Union County Jail according to the terms set out by the court;
- That Braaten pay \$104.00 in Court Costs on the felony file;
- That Braaten pay \$84.00 in Court Costs on the misdemeanor file;
- That Braaten pay \$25.00 to the Domestic Violence Fund;
- That Braaten pay \$139.50 in prosecution costs; and
- That Braaten pay \$350.00 in fines on the misdemeanor file.

Criminal History:

This is Kurtis Braaten's first felony conviction.