

Union County State's Attorney

209 East Main Street ~ Suite 140
Elk Point, South Dakota 57025
Telephone (605) 356-2666 / Facsimile (605) 761-0199

Jerry A. Miller
State's Attorney
JerryMiller@UCSA.US

Alexis A. Tracy
Deputy State's Attorney
AlexisTracy@UCSA.US

Tamara P. Nash
Deputy State's Attorney
TamaraNash@UCSA.US

July 7, 2015

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Jessie Lee Lewis, III
Age: 32
City and State of residence: Vermillion, SD
Criminal File Number: 14-415
Offense Occurred On: November 7, 2014
Indicted: November 19, 2014
Plead Guilty On: March 2, 2015
Convicted of: Ct. 1B: Driving Under the Influence 4th Offense, (F4), 32-23-4.7
Sentencing Date: April 13, 2015

Case Synopsis:

On November 7, 2014, two separate motorists called the Union County Dispatch Center over concerns of a vehicle that was all over the road; in the ditch; and generally exhibiting dangerous driving issues to the motoring public. Union County Deputy, Joshua Bridenstine stopped the vehicle at about 10:00 am. The driver, later identified as Jessie Lewis, had stopped in the middle of the driving lane of the interstate. Lewis stumbled back to the deputy's vehicle and claimed to have a work permit, however after searching for and researching this issue, it was discovered that Lewis did not have a court ordered work permit. Lewis explained that he was driving a friend's vehicle to get it repaired and that he was merely driving this vehicle to work at Builder's Choice in Vermillion, SD. Lewis did not smell of the odor of intoxicants, yet displayed the behavior and symptoms of a person who is under the influence. Lewis consented to the search of his vehicle, which revealed three empty compressed air dusters canisters in the vehicle. A blood sample confirmed the presence of Dextromethorphan in the blood, which is consistent with the huffing of compressed air duster products.

Sentencing Synopsis:

The Court ordered the following sentence on the charge of DUI 4th, a class 4 felony: Lewis received a ten penitentiary sentence with five years suspended. The Court gave Lewis credit for 158 days previously spent incarcerated prior to the disposition of this sentence. The Court further ordered that Lewis' license would be suspended for 3 additional years.

The Court further ordered that the Lewis to pay the following:

- Prosecution Costs of \$100.00;
- Court Costs of \$104.00;
- SD Drug Control Fund Fee / Costs of \$60.00;
- A fine of \$500.00; and
- Court Appointed Attorney Fees of \$816.00.

Criminal History:

This is Jessie Lewis' fourth career felony conviction. Jessie Lewis has five-career DUI conviction, of which three of those conviction are now felony conviction. Lewis also has a felony conviction for aggravated eluding.