

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Jake Benton
Age: 29
City and State of residence: Alcester, SD
Criminal File Number: 14-450
Offense Date: December 4, 2014
Arrestment Date: January 5, 2015
Change of Plea Date: May 26, 2015
Original Convicted of: Ct. I: Aggravated Assault (Domestic), SDCL 22-18-1.1 (8), (F3)
Original Date of Sentence: July 20, 2015
Arresting Officer: Officer Tim Peet, Alcester Police Department

Case Synopsis:

The altercation in this case stems from a discovery made by Benton's wife on Benton's phone. Text messages were discovered which indicated that Benton had been unfaithful, outside of the marriage, and with another woman along with additional conversations suggesting a relationship with another male subject were discovered. Benton was confronted about his infidelity. When Benton's wife told Jake Benton that she intended to publicly embarrass him with this information, Jake Benton physically assaulted and strangled his wife. Law Enforcement was called which resulted in Benton being arrested for the following:

- Aggravated Assault (Domestic)
- Simple Assault (Domestic) and
- Interfering with a person's attempt to summons emergency assistance.

On January 21, 2015, the Alcester Police Department executed a search warrant for the phone of Jake Benton due to reports that Benton had violated a protection order wherein he was prohibited from going near his estranged wife. The report and the pictures show that Benton was at his estranged wife's residence and documented it through pictures. Benton's bragging about this was ultimately reported to law enforcement.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of Aggravated Assault (Domestic), Benton received a suspended ten (10) year sentence to the penitentiary. Benton was also ordered to serve ten (10) years on supervised probation. Benton was further ordered to serve 180 days in the Union County Jail with credit for the fifty-five (55) days that he spent incarcerated prior to being sentenced on this file.

The Court further ordered that Benton pay the following:

- \$104.00 in Court Costs;
- \$792.40 in Prosecution Costs;
- \$25.00 to the South Dakota Domestic Violence Fund; and
- Court Appointed Attorney Fees in the amount of \$2,697.60

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is Mr. Benton's first career felony conviction.