

# 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

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## Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Patrick Highstrom  
Age: 49  
City and State of residence: Yankton, SD  
Criminal File Number: 15-038  
Offense Date: February 16, 2015  
Indictment Date: April 22, 2015  
Arraignment Date: May 04, 2015  
Change of Plea Date: May 04, 2015  
Original Convicted of: Ct. I: Ingestion of a Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance,  
SDCL 22-42-5.1, (F5)  
Original Date of Sentence: July 20, 2015  
Arresting Officer: Trooper Stuart Griffith, South Dakota Highway Patrol

### Case Synopsis:

On February 16, 2015 a concerned motorist called to report a northbound vehicle on interstate 29 was being driven erratically. The caller reported that the vehicle was driving from median to ditch on a regular basis, and on one occasion the vehicle did leave the paved portion of the road for a period of time. The caller followed the vehicle to Elk Point, and maintained a visual on the driver while the driver went into the Kum and Go. The caller continued to follow the vehicle north of Elk Point, on the interstate until a trooper was able to be in position to observe the vehicle's erratic driving.

Trooper Griffith stopped the vehicle and identified the driver as Patrick Highstrom, of Yankton, SD. Highstrom explained to the trooper that he had fallen asleep while driving as a means of explaining the part of the report that law enforcement had received about his driving. Trooper Griffith conducted a further investigation which revealed that drug use may also contributed to his poor driving. A sample of his urine was tested and indicated a positive result of 11,040 ng/ml of methamphetamine and 183,335 ng/ml of amphetamine. Marijuana and drug paraphernalia were also found in Highstrom's vehicle.

It was discovered that Highstrom was on parole. Law enforcement reports indicate that a parole violation was filed against Highstrom. Highstrom plead guilty at his arraignment hearing.

### Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge in Count I, Ingestion of a Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance, a violation of SDCL 22-42-5.1, a class 5 felony, Highstrom was sentenced to 5 years in the penitentiary with his sentence to begin immediately. The court suspended 4 of the 5 years of the penitentiary sentence. The Court further ordered Highstrom to pay the following:

- \$104.00 in Court Costs;
- \$10.00 in Prosecution Costa;
- \$90.00 to the South Dakota Drug Fund;

### Criminal History Synopsis:

This felony conviction would be approximately ten career felony convictions on Mr. Highstrom record. Mr. Highstrom is required to register as a sex offender.