

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Neal Ehlers
Age: 37
City and State of residence: Sioux City, IA
Criminal File Number: 13-188
Incident Date: June 25, 2013
Indictment Date: August 1, 2013
Arraignment Date: August 5, 2013
Change of Plea Date: November 18, 2013
Date of Sentencing: January 13, 2014
Convicted of: Possession of Controlled Substance - (F4) 22-42-5
Driving with a Revoked License – (M1) 32-12-65(1)
Arresting Officer: Lt. Richard Headid – North Sioux City Police Department
Court Appointed Attorney: Rachel Rasmussen

Case Synopsis:

On June 25, 2013, Neal Ehlers was the driver of a vehicle that was pulled over because the vehicle had expired license plates. The plates were expired for more than a year. Ehlers was charged with driving with a revoked license. North Sioux City Police Officer, Lt. Richard Headid, observed drug paraphernalia in plain view in the vehicle. Ehlers provided a urine sample which tested positive for the following: Methamphetamine at 22,000 ng/ml; and Amphetamine at 6,500 ng/ml.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of possession of controlled substance, the Court sentenced Ehlers to a suspended five-year sentence with five years of supervised probation.

On the second charge of driving with a revoked license, the Court sentenced Ehlers with an additional fine and court costs. The Court further ordered that Ehlers must pay all, restitution, fines, court costs, prosecution costs, and court-appointed attorney fees as a term and condition of satisfying probation.

Probation Violation

Mr. Ehlers tested positive for methamphetamines at his October 26, 2015 appointment. He has received two substance abuse evaluations both recommending treatment and as of October 29, 2015 Ehlers has still not entered treatment.

Sentencing Synopsis – March 28, 2016

On the charge in Count 1, for possession of a controlled substance, which is a class 4 felony, the court sentenced Neal Ehlers to five years in the SD Penitentiary with 3 years suspended and Ehlers must pay: \$10.00 – previous prosecution costs; \$45.00 - South Dakota Drug Control Fund; \$650.00 – Fines; \$834.80 – Court appointed attorneys' fees.

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is Ehlers first probation violation on his second career felony.