

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Russell Wounded Knee
Age: 25
City and State of residence: El Paso, TX
Criminal File Number: 15-330
Incident Date: September 20, 2015
Indictment Date: October 9, 2015
Arraignment Date: December 21, 2015
Change of Plea Date: February 1, 2016
Date of Sentencing: March 28, 2016
Convicted of: Ingestion of a Schedule I or II Controlled Substance – (F5) 22-42-5.1
Carrying a Pistol without a Permit – (M1) 22-14-9
Arresting Officer: Trent Heuertz
Court Appointed Attorney: Andrew Twinamatsiko

Case Synopsis:

On September 20, 2015, Russell Wounded Knee was a passenger in a red Mitsubishi Eclipse that was stopped for exceeding the speed limit. The officer, concerned for his safety due to movements observed in the car prior to and during the stop, in addition to the driver having an empty holster and a semi-automatic magazine holster on his belt, called for back-up. Once back-up arrived, Russell Wounded Knee admitted to possessing a concealed firearm without a permit and had a loaded .22 caliber revolver on his person that contained 2 live rounds and 3 spent shell casings. Russell Wounded Knee agreed to provide a urine sample and admitted that it would test positive for methamphetamine. Russell Wounded Knee was arrested and transported to the Union County Jail. Wounded Knee provided a urine sample that tested positive for methamphetamine at a level of 25,485 ng/ml, amphetamine at a of 3,670 ng/ml, and marijuana (THC) at a level of 115 ng/ml.

Sentencing Synopsis:

The Court exercised its discretion of judiciary clemency and granted Russell Wounded Knee a suspended imposition of sentence. The Court then ordered Russell Wounded Knee to successfully complete four years of supervised probation. Russell Wounded Knee was further ordered to shall serve 59 days in the Union County Jail receiving credit for the 29 days previously served. Russell Wounded Knee was ordered to report to serve the 30 days on April 1, 2017

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is Russell Wounded Knee's first career felony offense which qualifies him to be eligible for the suspended imposition of sentence. If Russell Wounded Knee successfully completes his supervised probation, the court will seal his file and he will never be sentenced on this case or receive a final judgment.