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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Travis Brownell
Age: 38
City and State of residence: North City, SD
Criminal File Number: 15-417
Incident Date: November 3, 2015
Indictment Date: November 18, 2015
Arraignment Hearing: January 11, 2016
Amended Information: March 25, 2016
Change of Plea Date: March 28, 2016
Date of Sentencing: March 28, 2016
Convicted of: Ct. 3: Simple Assault (Domestic), 22-18-1(4), (M1)
Arresting Officer: Officer Samantha Close – North Sioux City Police Department
Defense Attorney: Robert Tiefenthaler
Prosecution Attorney: Jerry Miller

Case Synopsis:

On November 11, 2015, Officer Close, of the North Sioux City Police Department responded to a report of an aggravated assault at the Brownell residence (apartment). The victim in this case was upset upon Officer Close's arrival from the assault. The Victim identified to Officer Close that she and Brownell had gotten into an argument over Brownell seeing other women. The victim audio recorded part of this conversation with Brownell. Brownell observed that the victim was recording and it can be heard that a scuffle for the recording device occurs which eventually ends the recording. Brownell did not secure the recording because law enforcement was provided the recording by the victim.

The victim went on to explain that she had been assaulted; then strangled; and then pushed in manner in which she fell backwards and struck her back on the corner of a counter top. Throughout the investigation that evening, the victim stayed consistent in her story. The next day, Officer Close made contact with the victim and she again stayed consistent however, her conviction to follow through began to waiver. After that portion of the investigation, this victim called Officer Close and the State's Attorney's Office in an effort to recant her story. The victim stated that she had lied to law enforcement and that she was strangled during intercourse. She further stated that she was into being strangled and that Brownell is a doctor who has researched how to "safely" strangle someone for the purpose of enhancing sexual relations.

The victim was subpoenaed into Grand Jury in which she was placed under oath and she testified that she had lied to law enforcement and that she had consented to be strangled during sexual intercourse. The Grand Jury also heard testimony from Officer Close and concluded that Officer Close was creditable and indicted Brownell. At the conclusion of the case, Brownell admitted to being in a relationship with the victim and that he had assaulted her on November 11, 2015. (See sentencing disposition below)

On April 11, 2016, Travis Brownell was charged in file 15-455 with simple assault (domestic) and with violation of the terms and condition of his no contact order bond on a domestic

abuse case (i.e. he had continuing contact with the victim in the case identified above). Both of these charges are class one misdemeanors.

During this altercation, the victim (same as above) was again at Brownell's residence and had reported an altercation in which she claimed to have been hit with a dumbbell. The victim had visual swelling that was able to be photographed. Brownell plead guilty to the violation of the no contact order in file 15-455 and was sentenced to a suspended thirty-day sentence on the term and condition that he not have any like offenses in the next three-hundred and sixty days. This sentencing took place on April 21, 2016. Brownell was also fined \$1,000.00; court costs of \$84.00; and a \$25.00 domestic abuse fee.

On December 9, 2015, Travis Brownell was charged in file 16-174 with violation of a no contact order, a class 1 misdemeanor. Law enforcement identified specific evidence to show that Brownell was in contact with the victim on file 15-417 while there was a no contact orders in place. Brownell plead guilty to the violation of the no contact order in file 15-174 and was sentenced to a suspended thirty-day sentence on the term and condition that he not have any like offenses in the next three-hundred and sixty days. This sentencing took place on April 21, 2016. Brownell was also fined \$1,000.00; court costs of \$84.00; and a \$25.00 domestic abuse fee.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On March 28, 2016, the Court sentenced Travis Brownell on the charge of Simple Assault (Domestic) to serve a sixty-day sentence in the Union County Jail with fifty-eight days suspended on the term and condition that Brownell not have any like violation for the following three-hundred and sixty days. Brownell was ordered to pay the following: \$84.00 in court costs; \$1000.00 in fines; and \$25.00 for the required domestic violence fee.

Criminal History Synopsis:

Travis Brownell does not have a felony conviction on his record.