

Union County State's Attorney

Jerry A. Miller
State's Attorney
JerryMiller@ucsa.us

209 East Main Street ~ Suite 140
Elk Point, South Dakota 57025
Telephone (605) 356-2666 / Facsimile (605) 761-0199

Alexis A. Tracy
Deputy State's Attorney
AlexisTracy@ucsa.us

Tamara Nash
Deputy State's Attorney
TamaraNash@ucsa.us

February 13, 2016

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Scott A. Erickson
Age: 34
City/State of residence: Alcester, SD
Criminal File Number: 14-406
Incident Date: October 29, 2014
Indictment Date: November 19, 2014
Arraignment Date: December 22, 2014
Change of Plea Date: September 28, 2015
Convicted of: Aggravated Assault Against A Law Enforcement Officer, 22-18.1.05, (F2)
1st Degree Intentional Damage, 22-34-1, (F5)
Date of Sentencing: November 9, 2015
Arresting Officer: Officer Tim Peet - APD
Court Appointed Attorney: Rachel Rasmussen

Case Synopsis:

On October 29, 2014 at about 6:30 p.m., Tim Peet, who was an Alcester city police officer at the time responded and took a report dealing with Scott Erickson, a resident of Alcester who had confronted Frank and Sunshine Roos about Roos' daughter's interaction with Erickson's daughters. The confrontation took place at the residence of Jeff Nelson, however the Nelson's do not have a daughter or a child involved in the controversy. Erickson had tracked Frank and Sunshine Roos to the Nelson residence to address his concerns. Erickson was very upset about how the children were playing at the city park and the one Roos child engaging with the two Erickson children a series of 'your mama' jokes. Erickson expressed that if Roos did not do something about his daughter that he would handle it his way. Erickson was yelling and out of control which culminated in a threatening statement that Erickson was not afraid of Frank Roos and that he has stabbed and killed people bigger than him (Frank) while he was in the military. Eventually everyone involved in this situation separated.

It was reported to Officer Peet, that statement about Erickson admitting to have shot, killed and stabbed people in Iraq and Afghanistan and that he would not hesitate to go after Frank Roos. When Officer Peet and Deputy Bridenstine made contact with Erickson, Erickson was calm as he started to tell his side of the story. Erickson became extremely agitated as he continued with the story and then began to yell and curs at the two officers, taunting each of them. Erickson's contention was that it was the school's and the police's fault for not taking action in preventing his children from being bullied.

On October 29, 2014 between 8:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Alcester Chief of Police, Ryan Knutson, was driving on SD Highway 11 when he noticed a large wet circle on SD Highway 11 and the distinct odor of gasoline. The location of this gasoline circle was in front of Erickson's residence. At this time, Chief Knutson made contact with Erickson, who was sitting on his steps in front of his house and who was now visibly intoxicated. Chief Knutson asked if Erickson had poured the gas on the road. Erickson responded with a calm smile pausing and responding "I don't know who did it". Erickson then stated that Roos and Nelson were trying to kill him. Erickson agreed to go back into his house and call it a night and that they would talk tomorrow when everyone had calmed down.

On October 29, 2014 between 10:00 p.m. Officer Peet was responding to Erickson residence because he thought that he heard yelling coming from Erickson's residence. Officer Tim Peet was then directed to 310 SD Hwy 11, which is the Jeff Nelson residence. Upon approaching the alley and garage area of Nelson's residence, Officer Peet observed Erickson getting out of a white chevy pickup that belonged to Jeff Nelson. When Erickson emerged from the vehicle, Officer Peet observed Erickson with a long yellow handled axe in his possession. Frank Roos yelled to the officer a warning that Erickson had an axe. Erickson then raised the axe with both hands in a threatening manner above his shoulders and with the blade canted towards Officer Peet. Officer Peet directed Erickson to drop the axe several times while Erickson continued his advance upon the officer. Erickson approached to within 10 to 15 feet of Officer Peet, while Officer Peet had his taser pointed at Erickson. At this point, Officer Peet holstered his taser and pulled his firearm. Erickson reacted to the officer's pulling of his sidearm and through the axe in a safe location. Erickson refused to submit to Officer Peet's commands and attempts to place Erickson under arrest. Erickson then still walking away from Officer Peet, removed his coat and through it at the officer, all the while walking towards his house. After Erickson finally submitted to handcuffs being placed on his wrists, Erickson became impossible for several officers to deal with. Erickson was rolling on the ground while his wife tried to intervene. When Erickson was being escorted to the patrol vehicle, he lunged at the vehicle and purposely struck his head on the vehicle, after which he again became unmanageable. The ambulance was called to the scene despite Erickson's wife stating that her husband was faking. Throughout this process, Erickson assaulted Beresford City Officer Nick Fahlberg, and one of the ambulance personnel prior to being subdued and transported to the Union County Jail.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of Aggravated Assault Against A Law Enforcement Officer, a class two felony, the Court sentenced Scott Erickson to a suspended fifteen year sentence to the state penitentiary. The Court further ordered that Scott Erickson successfully complete eight years of supervised probation. The Court ordered that Scott Erickson serve a term of One Hundred and Eighty days in the county jail, of which the Court gave Erickson credit for the One Hundred and Eight days that he spent in the county jail prior to sentencing. Erickson was ordered to pay One Thousand Dollars in fines; Five Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven Dollars and Ninety-five cents in Court-Appointed Attorney fees; as well as prosecution and court costs.

On the charge of 1st Degree Intentional Damage, a class five felony, the Court sentenced Scott Erickson to a suspended five year sentence to the state penitentiary. The Court further ordered that Scott Erickson successfully complete four years of supervised probation. The Court ordered that Scott Erickson serve a term of One Hundred and Eighty days in the county jail, of which the Court gave Erickson credit for the Ninety-Three days that he spent in the county jail prior to sentencing. The Court further ordered that the remaining Eighty-Seven days of his county jail sentence could be suspended under the term and condition that Erickson is accepted and there is a spot available for him to be enrolled in the Hot Springs VA Program. Erickson was further ordered to pay Three Thousand and Two Dollars and Sixty-seven cents in restitution to Jeff Nelson Jr., in addition to his court costs on this charge.

Criminal History:

This is Scott Erickson's first and second career felony convictions.