

---

July 26, 2016

## Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Mariah LeClair  
Age: 25  
City and State of residence: Sioux City, IA  
Criminal File Number: 15-369  
Incident Date: October 14, 2015  
Arraignment Hearing: January 25, 2016  
Change of Plea Date: April 11, 2016  
Date of Sentencing: April 11, 2016  
Convicted of: Ct. 1: Grand Theft by Possession of Stolen Property, 22-30A-17 (F5)  
Ct. 2: Possession of a Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance w/Intent to Distribute, 22-42-2 (F4)  
Investigating Officers: Officer Jon Feller – North Sioux City Police Dept.  
Officer Faustin Mahlke – North Sioux City Police Dept.  
Court Appointed Attorney: Jason Rumpca

### Case Synopsis:

On October 14, 2015, Officer Feller was training Officer Mahlke during the shift. A vehicle pulled in and parked at the Casey's General Store. Officer Feller instructed Officer Mahlke on how to run a vehicle plate through the use of the in-car mobile-data system. The vehicle that had just parked besides them had been reported stolen. When the two occupants came out of the Casey's General Store, they paused briefly and looked at their vehicle and then at the officers and then proceeded to walk past their vehicle and continued walking. The clerk working at the store advised that they couple had purchased some milk, ice cream and donuts. The local area and businesses were searched but the couple was unable to be located.

The vehicle was secured and removed to a location and searched. The following items were discovered: a meth pipe; a baggie of meth (about 1 ounce or 30 grams); potential DNA evidence was secured; drug paraphernalia items; receipts from local businesses; and a cell phone that belonged to Mariah LeClair. Law Enforcement used the receipts to secure video footage of the two occupants and there after they were able to identify them as Mariah LeClair and Preston Coop.

The case was presented to the Grand Jury and an Indictment was signed against both LeClair and Coop. After LeClair was arrested, her attorney arranged for a furlough so that she could attend a substance abuse evaluation. LeClair was taken to the facility for the evaluation and LeClair failed to show up for her appointment as she absconded from custody while on furlough which qualifies as a felony escape.

### Sentencing Synopsis:

On April 11, 2016 the Court sentenced Mariah LeClair on Ct. 1 for the charge of Ct. 1: Grand Theft by Possession of Stolen Property, a class 5 felony, to a 5-year sentence to the state penitentiary with the Court suspending 30 months. The Court identified the following aggravating factors which warrant a penitentiary sentence over probation:

- The sentence in Count 2 has a mandatory minimum;

- The Defendant poses a danger to herself and others;
- The risk to the public is demonstrated in the nature of Count 1;
- The Defendant made the choice to flee while out of custody on a furlough to obtain a chemical dependency evaluation;

The court further ordered LeClair to pay the following: \$104.00 in Court Costs.

On April 11, 2016 the Court sentenced Mariah LeClair on Ct. 2 for the charge of Possession of a Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance with the Intent to Distribute, a Class 4 felony to a 7-year sentence to the state penitentiary with 54 months suspended. LeClair was further ordered to pay the following: \$104.00 in Court Costs; \$207 to the South Dakota Drug Fund; and Court Appointed Attorney Fees back to Union County County in the amount of \$795.80. Lastly, the Court ordered that the sentences in Ct. 1, and Ct. 2 shall run concurrent to each other.

**Criminal History:**

Mariah LeClair has a criminal record in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, however, this is LeClair's first and second career felony convictions.