
August 12, 2016

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Jason McDonald
Age: 26
City and State of residence: Picked up in the State of Florida on a Felony warrant from Union Co.
Criminal File Number: 13-372
Incident Date: October 31, 2013
Indictment Date: November 14, 2013
Arraignment Hearing: May 9, 2016
Change of Plea Date: June 9, 2016
Date of Sentencing: June 9, 2016
Convicted of: Ct. 2: Grand Theft, 22-30A-17 & 22-30A-1, (F6)
Arresting Officer: Chief Bill McKelvey – Jefferson, SD
Defense Attorney: Jeff Myers

Case Synopsis:

On October 31, 2013, the Jefferson police responded and investigated the burglary of the Janet Johnson's apartment. An eyewitness reported seeing Robert Asher II, Jason McDonald, and Zunilda Reyes-Vega working in concert in removing items out of Johnson's apartment. Items taken include multiple televisions, about 100 DVDs, and DVD players, along with other items with a value of approximately \$1,400 dollars. Asher was arrested and turned states evidence against the two co-defendant. Asher advised that he was originally told that they were only going to recover some of the items that they had left in the apartment when they were living with Johnson. Asher admitted that he should have known that he was participating in a grand theft and burglary when about 100 DVD's and multiple televisions were removed from the residence when neither Jason McDonald nor Zunilda Reyes-Vega had ever claimed that those items were theirs.

Co-defendant Robert Asher was convicted of Grand Theft in 2014. Asher paid 100% of the restitution as part of his sentence. The law would allow Asher to now go after the co-defendants in small claims court to recover their joint and several share of the restitution in this file. Co-defendant Zunilda Reyes-Vega admitted to a concession charge of misprision of a felony, a class 1 misdemeanor. The third co-defendant, Jason McDonald, plead to the felony charge of Grand Theft, a class 6 felony.

Sentencing Synopsis:

Jason McDonald received a sentence of forty-four days in the Union County Jail. The court also ordered that McDonald pay the following: \$104.00 in Court Costs; \$500.00 in Fines; \$2,308.00 in Prosecution Costs; and \$391.00 in court-appointed attorney fees. McDonald was ordered to serve forty-eight days at \$60 a day to sit out his fine, court costs, and prosecution costs if he is unable to pay them. McDonald was further given credit for the forty-four days that he spent incarcerated prior to sentencing.

Criminal History Synopsis:

This is Jason McDonald's first felony conviction. McDonald has a criminal record in three states consisting of all misdemeanors prior to this felony conviction.