

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Morris Owens
Age: 34
City and State of Residence: Dakota Dunes, SD
Criminal File Number: 15-194
Incident Date: June 19, 2015
Indictment Date: July 8, 2015
Arraignment Date: August 3, 2015
Change of Plea Date: November 23, 2015
Date of Sentencing: December 21, 2015
Convicted of: Ct. 2: Simple Assault (Domestic), 22-18-1(4), (M1)
Ct. 3: Interfering with Emergency Communications, 49-31-39.2(1), (M1)
Ct. 4: Contributing to the Abuse & Neglect of a Child, 26-9-1, (M1)
Arresting Officer: Deputy Stephanie Ryan – Union County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Joshua Bridenstine – Union County Sheriff's Office
Officer Dustin Sharkey – North Sioux City Police Department
Officer Derek McIntosh – North Sioux City Police Department
Court Appointed Attorney: Rachel Rasmussen

Case Synopsis:

On June 18, 2015, Deputy Ryan and other officers were called to a domestic in progress. Owen and his wife were arguing in their bedroom. The children attempted to intercede to protect their mother. It was reported that Mrs. Owen was attempting to leave the bedroom while being denied the ability to leave by her husband. A teen child felt it necessary to force his way into the bedroom to protect his mother. Morris Owens was reported to have damaged a bedroom door during the altercation. Morris Ownes was also reported to have had much of this altercation in the presence of the children. One of the children reportedly came to the defense of his mother.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge in Count 2, for Simple Assault (Domestic), which is a class one misdemeanor, the Court sentenced Morris Owens to Three Hundred days in the county jail. The Court then suspended Two Hundred and Forty day of his sentence conditioned upon the Morris Ownes satisfying a Three Hundred and Sixty day term of unsupervised probation, which includes anger management class, obeying all laws and paying all monetary obligations. Owens was ordered to begin his Sixty-day sentence on January 1, 2016.

On the charge in Count 3, for Interfering with Emergency Communications, which is a class one misdemeanor, the Court sentenced Morris Owens to suspended sentence of Three Hundred days in the county jail. Morris Ownes is required to satisfying a Three Hundred and Sixty day term of unsupervised probation which includes obeying all laws and paying all monetary obligations.

On the charge in Count 4, for Contributing to the Abuse & Neglect of a Child, which is a class one misdemeanor, the Court sentenced Morris Owens to suspended sentence of Three Hundred days in the county jail. Morris Ownes is required to satisfying a Three Hundred and Sixty day term of unsupervised probation which includes obeying all laws and paying all monetary

obligations. Owens' probation and sentences in counts 3 and 4 shall run concurrent with his sentence in count 2.

Criminal History:

While this offense did not result in a felony offense, Morris Ownes does have one felony offense on his permanent criminal history.