
February 10, 2017

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: John Baker
Age: 36
City and State of Residence: Sioux City, IA
Criminal File Number: 15-453
Incident Date: December 14, 2015
Indictment Date: January 11, 2016
Charges: 1) Possession of Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance (F5)
2) Ingestion (M1)
3) Possession of Marijuana, (M1)
4) Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (M2)
Arrestment Date: March 14, 2016
Change of Plea Date: April 4, 2016
Convicted of: 1) Possession of Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance, (F5),
Date of Sentencing: April 4, 2016
Arresting Officer: Officer Jon Feller – North Sioux City, SD
Defense Attorney: Rachel Rasmussen
Prosecutor: Alexis A. Tracy

Case Synopsis:

On December 14, 2016, the North Sioux City Police Department responded to the Reno Casino on a report of an individual who is believed to be mentally unstable. The reporting party advised that the person, latter identified as BAKER, was using three cell phones and that the person should be check on for his own protection. BAKER advised that he had lost his home in Sioux City, IA. A check on BAKER's status identified a valid warrant for his arrest. BAKER was arrested on the warrant. BAKER was found to be in possession of marijuana; drug paraphernalia; and methamphetamine. BAKER provided a urine sample which tested positive for amphetamine at 17,804 ng/ml, and methamphetamine at 53,444 ng/ml.

Sentencing Synopsis:

On April 4, 2016, the Court addressed the class 5 felony charge in Count 1, for Possession of a Schedule 1 or 2 Controlled Substance. The Court considered the arguments of the State and the Defense, the Court being satisfied that the ends of justice and the best interests of the public as well as the Defendant will be served by the Court exercising judicial clemency and issued a Suspended Imposition of Sentence to BAKER. The Court further ordered that

BAKER be placed on supervised probation for a term of four-years. The Court ordered that BAKER serve 45 days in the Union County Jail and suspended 2 days of that sentence. BAKER was then given credit for the 43 days that BAKER spent incarcerated prior to sentencing. BAKER was ordered to pay the following monetary obligations: \$104 in Court Costs; \$10 in prosecution costs; \$139 in fees to the SD Drug Fund; and a fine in the amount of \$500. BAKER's fine will be suspended upon the term and condition that BAKER obtain his chemical and mental health evaluations. BAKER was further ordered to pay \$598.90 in Court-Appointed Attorney Fees.

Criminal History:

This is BAKER's first career felony conviction. BAKER's criminal file will be sealed to the public if BAKER successfully completes supervised probation.