
January 13, 2017

Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Elias Mendez
Age: 24
City and State of residence: East Grand Forks, MN
Criminal File Number: 13-190
Convicted of: Possession of a Controlled Substance, 22-42-5 (F4)
Date of Sentence: July 7, 2014
Arresting Officer: Officer Aaron Tyler – North Sioux City Police

Probation Violation Date: August 13, 2013
1st Probation Offense: Drug use and multiple violations of law while on probation.
Initial Appearance Date: August 29, 2016
Change of Plea: October 3, 2016
Date of Sentence: October 3, 2016
Defense Attorney: Jeff Myers
Prosecution: Alexis A. Tracy

Case Synopsis:

Elias Mendez was sleeping in his car at a Casey's parking lot when Officer Tyler made contact with MENDEZ. MENDEZ told the Officer he was heading to Laredo, Texas and that he just stopped to take a nap. Officer Tyler noticed MENDEZ's nervous and jumpy behavior. MENDEZ consented to allow Officer Tyler search his vehicle. Officer Tyler found several drug paraphernalia items and a plastic baggie containing marijuana. MENDEZ's urine tested positive for 240 ng/ml of methamphetamine and 630 ng/ml of marijuana (THC).

Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance, the court granted a suspended imposition of sentence to MENDEZ. The Court also ordered that MENDEZ be placed on supervised probation for a term of four (4) years. MENDEZ must obey all federal and local laws. MENDEZ must also pay all court costs and fines. This means that as long as MENDEZ satisfies the terms and conditions set by his probation the conviction for possession of controlled substance will be cleared from his record by the Court.

1st Probation Violation Case Synopsis:

Elias Mendez was found in a parked vehicle. MENDEZ had an outstanding parking warrant for his arrest. MENDEZ took off running from the officer. MENDEZ hid in a church and daycare center. The building was locked down. Law Enforcement found MENDEZ hiding in a kitchen closet. Additionally, on March 11, 2016, a random search of MENDEZ's home in Minnesota located prescription pills that are considered controlled substances, not prescribed to MENDEZ, two (2) meth pipes that tested positive for meth, and a dugout containing a green leafy substance.

MENDEZ has had several driving offenses, absconded from probation by missing many appointments, and not paying his financial obligations.

1st Probation Violation Disposition Synopsis:

On October 3, 2016, the Court re-sentenced MENDEZ's probation violation on the original charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance, a class 4 felony. MENDEZ revoked the previously granted suspended imposition of sentence. MENDEZ was ordered to serve 60 days in the Union County Jail and given credit for the 49 days that he spent incarcerated prior to this sentencing. MENDEZ was ordered to pay all outstanding and unpaid court ordered financial obligations, as well as new court-appointed attorney fees.

Criminal History:

This is Elias Mendez's first probation violation on his first felony conviction.