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January 13, 2017

## Press Release - For Immediate Release

Defendant's Name: Steven D. Knecht  
Age: 56  
City and State of residence: Elk Point, SD  
Criminal File Number: 14-080  
Convicted of: Failure to Update Sex Offender Registry - (F6) 22-24B-2  
Date of Sentence: April 5, 2014  
Arresting Officer: Officer Kyle Frye – Elk Point Police Department

Probation Violation: August 31, 2016  
Also New Charge: 16-339  
Initial Appearance: December 5, 2016  
Convicted of: Failure to Update Sex Offender Registry - (F6) 22-24B-12  
Part II Information ~ Habitual Offender

Probation Violation: Failure to obey all laws  
PV Admission Date: December 5, 2016  
Convicted of: Failure to Update Sex Offender Registry - (F6) 22-24B-12  
Part II Information ~ Habitual Offender

Date of Disposition: December 5, 2016  
Arresting Officer: Officer Corey Trudeau – Elk Point Police Department  
Defense Attorney: Jeff Myers  
Prosecutor: Alexis A. Tracy

### Case Synopsis:

On March 5, 2014 Steven Knecht moved back to South Dakota and registered his vehicle in South Dakota and was issued a South Dakota driver's license. On both documents, Knecht indicated that he was now living in Elk Point, SD. Pursuant to South Dakota Statute, a registered sex offender, or a person who is required to register as a sex offender is required to register with the city police department or the county sheriff, if living outside the city, within three days of being issued a driver's license or if a vehicle is registered within the state. On March 19, 2014 the Elk Point police department arrested Steven Knecht. Based on the Knecht's criminal history, this is the third time that law enforcement has addressed Knecht's failure to maintain appropriate registration pursuant to the sex offender laws. This is the first time the Knecht has been held accountable on a felony level for this offense. Knecht plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced on April 5, 2014.

### Sentencing Synopsis:

On the charge of Failure to Update Sex Offender Registry, the Court sentenced Knecht to a suspended two-year sentence to the South Dakota State Penitentiary and two years of supervised probation. The Court also ordered that Knecht spend fourteen days in the Union County Jail. The Court further ordered that Knecht must pay all, fines, court costs, prosecution costs, and court-appointed attorney fees as a term of successfully completing his supervised probation. Furthermore, due to the history of registration issues, the Court concluded that the additional supervision of Knecht would assist in his compliance on the sex offender registry.

**Probation Violation Synopsis:**

On or about August 31, 2016, and investigation concluded that Steven Knecht was not keeping his sex offender registration correctly informed honestly. The investigation identified that KNECHT was registering with the Elk Point police department and indicating that he was residing at his parent's residence. The investigation uncovered that KNECHT was living with in his leased apartment in Sioux City, IA. Law Enforcement was able to secure a signed leased agreement and identified that during the relevant timeframe, KNECHT was not residing in South Dakota at his parent's residence, as registered. Law Enforcement requested a warrant for KNECHT arrest after indictment. This is the second time the KNECHT has been held accountable on a felony level offense for this type of offense. KNECHT plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced on December 5, 2016. KNECHT committed this same type of offense in 2016. KNECHT also plead guilty on April 2014, which accounts for the Part II Information that raised the charge of Failure to Update Sex Offender Registry from a class 6 felony to a class 5 felony.

**Probation Violation Disposition Synopsis:**

On December 5, 2016, the Court addressed the probation violation following KNECHT's admission. The Court sentenced KNECHT to a serve 5 days in the Union County Jail to be applied toward outstanding financial obligations in the matter, to commence immediately following his sentence to be served in 16-339. The Court further ordered that KNECHT must pay the previously ordered court-appointed attorney fees in this matter. The Court released KNECHT unsuccessfully from probation in this matter.

**Criminal History Synopsis:**

This is KNECHT's first probation violation on his fourth career felony conviction. KNECHT has now received a fifth career felony conviction.