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Former deputy gets six months for meth crime

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In a Carver County courtroom on Nov. 30, Daniel David Kahlow, age 47 of Le Sueur was sentenced for a felony charge of second degree possession of a controlled substance.

Judge Michael Baxter ordered Kahlow to serve six months in county jail, followed by 90 days of electronic home monitoring. Kahlow was also ordered to pay a \$1,500 fine plus an \$85 surcharge.

In May, Kahlow, an 18-year veteran of the Carver County Sheriff's Office, was arrested after authorities found narcotics and evidence bags in his possession. Carver County Law Enforcement Center surveillance video showed Kahlow entering the evidence room and the drug evidence vault. An audit of narcotics set for destruction revealed several items appeared to have been tampered with or moved.

Prosecuting attorney Mike Radner of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office told Judge Baxter circumstances warranted a prison sentence of 41 months for the felony charge. "Mr. Kahlow violated an extraordinary trust," Radner said. "His flagrant conduct was beyond shocking, beyond appalling."

Radner indicated Kahlow had removed 56 grams of methamphetamine. During the investigation authorities recovered 24 grams. Radner went on to say it was likely Kahlow was using methamphetamine while working for the sheriff's office, meaning he was driving and carrying a firearm while under the influence of the drug.

"(Kahlow) knew it was wrong," Radner said, "yet he continued to use."

Radner acknowledged since the arrest, Kahlow has undergone treatment, exhibited pro-social behavior and accepted responsibility for his actions – including entering a guilty plea in October. "Yes, Mr. Kahlow engaged in treatment," Radner said to the judge, "but that decision was self-serving at best. His crime is so compelling it outweighs mitigating circumstances."

Kahlow's attorney, Fred Bruno, told Judge Baxter although Kahlow did plead guilty, there was no agreement for a 41-month sentence and asked the court for a dispositional departure. (A dispositional departure occurs when the sentencing guidelines call for execution of sentence and the court stays execution of sentence.)

Bruno said he has represented a variety of drug offenders and Kahlow is one of the few who remained clean after completing a treatment program. "I fully expected (Kahlow) to relapse," Bruno said. "Meth changes you into someone you are not. People are never quite the same after using it – even for a short period of time."

Bruno went on to argue Kahlow has already lost his job and endured public shame. He is completing an intensive out-patient program and has secured employment. On these grounds Bruno asked the court for a stay of imposition of sentence. He requested Kahlow be placed under house arrest rather than be incarcerated.

Before sentencing, Judge Baxter asked Kahlow if he anything to say.

"I'd like to apologize to the Carver County Sheriff's Department, the Carver County attorney, and my family," Kahlow said. "I take full responsibility for my actions and will accept anything you decide."

"Betrayal of public trust is an important issued," Judge Baxter said. "Because of this,

jail time is appropriate."

"I will grant a stay of imposition of sentence," Judge Baxter continued. "I understand addiction. You act opposite of your true values. Mr. Kahlow accepts responsibility for his behavior."

Kahlow was convicted of second degree possession of a controlled substance. Judge Baxter sentenced him to serve six months in county jail with credit for time served, beginning on or before Jan. 15. Following incarceration, Kahlow is to complete 90 days of electronic home monitoring.

Kahlow will also serve 20 years probation including conditions of no use of alcohol or mood-altering chemicals, subjecting to random testing.