



CHRISTIAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: June 21, 2024

**RE: DUSTIN D. ARNOLD SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN THE MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FOR NIXA BURGLARY AND AUTO THEFT**

OZARK, MO – The Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office announces that on June 20, 2024, Dustin Daron Arnold, 43, was sentenced to 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to two counts of felony theft, Conspiracy to Commit a Class C Felony, Burglary 2nd Degree, and Property Damage 1st Degree.

The charges stem from a burglary at a Nixa residence on January 24, 2023. Among the items stolen from the residence was a sixty-thousand-dollar sports car later recovered near Clinton, MO. Evidence indicated that Arnold planned the burglary and auto theft weeks in advance. Arnold appeared with his attorney on jury trial April 22, 2024. The parties selected a jury panel before reaching a plea agreement prior to the introduction of evidence. In return for Arnold's guilty plea, the State agreed that it would argue for 15 years imprisonment at sentencing. As a persistent felony offender, Arnold could have faced up to 30 years or life imprisonment had he proceeded to trial.

At the June 20 sentencing hearing, the assistant prosecutor asked that Arnold be sentenced to fifteen years in prison, highlighting Arnold's past criminal convictions, his history of failure on probation, and his refusal to accept full responsibility for his actions. After hearing argument from both sides, the Court sentenced Arnold to 15 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for Stealing a Motor Vehicle as a Prior Stealing Offender, 15 years for Conspiracy to Commit a Class C Felony, 10 years for Burglary 2nd Degree, 10 years for Stealing - \$750 or more, and 7 years for 1st Degree Property Damage. Arnold's sentences will run concurrently for a total of 15 years in the Department of Corrections. Arnold faces additional charges out of Greene County and Lawrence County for Delivery of Controlled Substance and Resisting Arrest.

The case was prosecuted by Christian County Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Chris Aiken and Michael Younker. Julie Harlan served as Victim Advocate and Violet Marquart served as Legal Assistant. The Christian County Sheriff's Department investigated the crime with help from Cass County Sheriff's Office.

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