



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MERRIAM WOODS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD ABUSE

On Thursday, March 22, 2012, Aaron L. Proctor (d.o.b. 08-11-1985) of Merriam Woods, pleaded guilty to child abuse and endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree, in the Circuit Court of Taney County, Missouri. Pursuant to a plea agreement, Proctor was sentenced to four (4) years in prison on each count, to be served concurrently. Proctor had no criminal history prior to his guilty plea to these charges.

An investigation began in July of 2011, when Proctor called Taney County law enforcement to advise that he was unable to provide for his three (3) month old son. Proctor requested that his son be released to the custody of Missouri Children's Division, because he could not continue to care for the child, and the child's mother had left and her whereabouts were unknown. Children's Division took custody of the child and – per department procedures – took the child for a medical exam. There, doctors found that the child had a fractured right femur, appearing to be approximately two (2) weeks old.

Upon being questioned by Detective Ronnie Roberts of the Taney County Sheriff's Office, Proctor said that he was aware of his son's injury but indicated that his son's leg was broken by the dog stepping on it a few days ago. After a short time, Proctor became emotional and told Detective Roberts that what he told him earlier wasn't true and that he, himself was responsible for his son's broken leg. The Children's Division investigator asked Proctor about why he had not sought help for the boy and Proctor said he didn't think the injury was that bad.

In addition, investigators found approximately ten (10) small dogs inside Proctor's house, and several cats in and around the house. There were many trash bags full of rotten trash piled up around the yard, and throughout the inside of the house investigators found trash, dirty clothes, dirty dishes piled up, rotten food, bugs, cockroaches, flies, and dog feces.

Child abuse and endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree are both class C felonies, so each carries a maximum sentence of seven (7) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections and a \$5,000.00 fine.

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