

Former EMT sentenced for morphine theft

(KAIR)--A former Jackson County EMT will serve five-years on federal probation for the theft of morphine.

According to a release Wednesday from the office of U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister, 33-year-old Colby VanWagoner was sentenced Tuesday.

He pleaded guilty in December to one count of obtaining a controlled substance by deception, and one count of making a false statement during an investigation.

One condition of VanWagoner's probation is to not engage in any occupation that would give him access to controlled substances without prior approval from his probation officer. He must also complete an approved substance abuse program.

The vials of morphine were stolen while VanWagoner worked for the Jackson County Emergency Medical Service, in Holton.

In his plea, VanWagoner admitted he tampered with vials of morphine sulfate, replacing the morphine with saline solution. He then put the vials back into narcotic boxes on ambulances and in office stocks.

Tests showed the concentration in the vials VanWagoner tampered with was as low as 1-percent or less.

The concentration should have been 100-percent.

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