

Nurse pleads; attorney maintains innocence

(KAIR)--A no contest plea was entered last week in Leavenworth County District Court by an Atchison woman accused of over-medicating a resident of a senior care facility while working as a nurse.

According to a release from Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson, sentencing for 37-year-old Jenni Reavis is not yet scheduled, pending approval of the Judge's docket, as regular criminal judge, Gerald Kuckelman, recused himself from handling the case.

Reavis is free on bond, awaiting the sentencing date.

According to Thompson, Reavis, on Friday, was convicted of endangerment, unlawful administration of a controlled substance, and battery. That stems from what Thompson says was giving evening and bedtime medications at the same time, along with an Ativan and a Benadryl, which was not in the resident's schedule of medications, with the medications known to make a person drowsy.

Atchison Attorney Andrew Werring is representing Reavis. He told MSC News in email correspondence that his client gave the patient a single 25 milligram tablet of Benadryl, an antihistamine, believing there was, what Werring calls, a standing order authorizing the medication due to the resident having had symptoms similar to an allergic reaction. Werring calls it a case where his client "was charged with a very heavy handed felony," which was reduced through the Leavenworth County Attorney's Office offering a plea to the misdemeanors with an agreed sentencing recommendation for probation.

Thompson, in his release, cites a text message sent by Reavis to the oncoming night shift nurse at the Twin Oaks Health and Rehab Center, in Lansing. Thompson describes the text message as containing a picture of the medicated resident slumped over in a wheelchair, and who appeared to be asleep, along with the caption reading, "you're welcome! I hope she is asleep most of the day tomorrow." A second text, including the photo, was also sent, reading "hint hint."

Werring told MSC News that while his client regrets the text messages and photograph that were sent, "she continues to maintain that she had no criminal intent or desire to see any harm come to the patient."

According to Thompson, the investigation leading to Reavis' arrest was conducted by the Lansing Police Department in May 2019.

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