CR 03681

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
IN THE MATTER OF:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- and -

MICHAEL ABEL

filed May 6/99

Transcript of Reasons for Sentence delivered by The Honourable Justice J.Z. Vertes, sitting with a jury, at Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, on March 23, A.D. 1999.

APPEARANCES:

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Ms. E. Bellerose:

On behalf of the Crown

Mr. J. Brydon:

On behalf of the Defence

(Charges under ss. 264.1(1)(a) and 266 of the Criminal Code)

THE COURT:

All things considered, based on what I heard today and some of the difficulties that have come to light, I think this resolution is an acceptable one and a reasonable one. I commend counsel for it.

The accused has been in custody now for some seven months, I take it. That would be the equivalent of anywhere from 12 to 14 months, on a rough calculation, were it a sentence. Even with his extensive record, I could not see a much greater sentence than that being imposed. So in all of the circumstances, I commend counsel for this resolution and I agree that the joint submission is a reasonable one. Stand up, Mr. Abel.

Mr. Abel, I can only say to you that anyone, any man, who takes advantage of their elderly mother for any reason whatsoever, even if it's just by words or threats or just because someone is under the influence of alcohol or anything else, that person is not a real man, and I'm sure you understand that, and I hope, I just hope, that you'll be able to start changing your life around and start acting like a real man and perhaps show the love and support to your mother that she deserves. Do you understand me?

24 THE ACCUSED:

Yes.

25 THE COURT:

I accept the joint submission for

purposes of sentencing. I sentence the accused to one

27 day in jail deemed to have been served by his

| | 1 | | attendance here today | . In effect, it's time served. |
|---|----|-----|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| | 2 | | In addition, Mr. | Abel, you will be on probation |
| | 3 | | for a period of two y | ears. For the full two-year |
| | 4 | | period, the condition | s of your probation are as |
| | 5 | | follows: you are to | keep the peace and be of good |
| | 6 | | behaviour; you are to | report if and when required to do |
| | 7 | | so to this Court; you | are to report to a probation |
| | 8 | | officer and be under | the supervision of the probation |
| | 9 | | officer; and you are | to report to the probation officer |
| | 10 | | as and when directed | by him. Do you understand that? |
| | 11 | THE | ACCUSED: | Yes. |
| | 12 | THE | COURT: | You are to have no contact or |
| | 13 | | communication with yo | ur mother, Antoinette Desjarlais, |
| | 14 | | unless initiated by h | er, and you are prohibited from |
| | 15 | | being on the fourth f | loor of Northern United Place |
| | 16 | | unless expressly invi | ted by her. Do you understand |
| | 17 | | those conditions? | |
| | 18 | THE | ACCUSED: | Yes. |
| | 19 | THE | COURT: | For the first 12 months of your |
| | 20 | | probation, you are pr | ohibited absolutely from the |
| | 21 | | consumption or posses | sion of alcohol. Do you |
| | 22 | | understand that? | |
| | 23 | THE | ACCUSED: | Yes. |
| _ | 24 | THE | COURT: | During those first 12 months, you |
| | 25 | | will submit to provid | ing a sample of your breath for |
| | 26 | | testing upon the dema | nd of a peace officer. Do you |
| | 27 | | understand that? | |

| 1 | THE | ACCUSED: | Yes. |
|----|-----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | THE | COURT: | So what it means is that you have |
| 3 | | to stay away from al | cohol for the next 12 months, and |
| 4 | | if a police officer | comes up to you and demands that |
| 5 | | you take a breath te | st to make sure that you are sober, |
| 6 | | you must comply. Do | you understand? |
| 7 | THE | ACCUSED: | Yes. |
| 8 | THE | COURT: | If you do not follow any of these |
| 9 | | conditions, if you v | iolate any of these conditions, you |
| 10 | | can be charged for t | hat, you can also be brought back |
| 11 | | before me and I can change those conditions. Do you | |
| 12 | | understand that? | |
| 13 | THE | ACCUSED: | Yes. |
| 14 | THE | COURT: | All right, just have a seat. |
| 15 | THE | ACCUSED: | Could I have something to say? |
| 16 | THE | COURT: | You can speak to your lawyer after |
| 17 | | we're finished. | |
| 18 | | Under the circu | mstances, Counsel, there will be no |
| 19 | | victim of crime fine | surcharge. Mr. Abel will have to |
| 20 | | stick around and wai | t until the probation order is |
| 21 | | prepared and sign it | , and he can go over it with you, |
| 22 | | Mr. Brydon. | |
| 23 | MR. | BRYDON: | Certainly. |
| 24 | THE | COURT: | Do you want to check with him as |
| 25 | | to what he wishes to | say? |
| 26 | MR. | BRYDON: | It's fine, My Lord. |
| 27 | THE | COURT: | Thank you once again, Counsel. |

| | 1 | We'll adjourn. |
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| | 4 | Certified Pursuant to Rule 723 |
| | 5 | of the Rules of Court |
| | 6 | The A |
| | 7 | Jane Romanowich Court Reporter |
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