### IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**BETWEEN:** 

#### HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- and -

#### DERRALD TAYLOR

Sentencing Hearing held before His Honour Judge T.B. Davis, sitting at Tuktoyaktuk, in the Northwest Territories on Wednesday, January 22, A.D. 1992.

### APPEARANCES:

M. Zigayer, Esq.,

Counsel for the Crown

H. Breier, Ms.,

Counsel for the Accused

J. McFarland, Ms., Court Reporter

(Charges under Sections 430(4), 145(3), 740(1), 268 and 267(1)(a) of the Criminal



## INFORMATION (ON BEHALF OF HER WAJESTY THE QUEEN)

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Form Formule 2
Section Articles 506 and 788

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### INFORMATION (ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN)

91-12/5(DP) Form Formule 2 Section Articles 506 a

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# INFORMATION (ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN)

Formule 2

Section Articles 506 and 788

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INFORMATION (ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN)

91-1275(DP)

Section Articles 508 and 788

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	Derrald TAYLOR

On or about the twentyfifth day of Decembe 1991 at or near the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk in the Northwest Territories did, while bound by a probation order made by Judge B.A. BRUSER of Territorial Court on the fifteenth day of March 1990, wilfully fail to comply with such order, to wit keep the peace and be of good behaviour, contrary to section 740(1) of the Criminal Code.

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91-1275(DP)

### INFORMATION (ON BEHALF OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN)

Formule 2 Section Articles 506 and 788

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1	MR. ZIGAYER:	Your Honour, I'd ask the Court to
2	deal with the matters of	the 25th of December, first.
3	THE COURT:	Mr. Taylor, you're charged with an
4	aggravated assault with a	use of a weapon in an assault and
5	breach of an undertaking	
6	MR. ZIGAYER:	Summarily, sir.
7	THE COURT:	Charge under Section 740 on the
8	two charges that I have me	entioned, that committing an
9		sault with a weapon, you have an
10		ed by this Court or you may elect
11		iry and be tried by a judge alone
12	or by a judge and jury.	
13	MS. BREIER:	Election is Territorial Court and
14		tended pleas to both charges is
15	guilty.	
16	THE COURT:	Both charges entering pleas of
17	guilty. Accept the pleas of	
18	MS. BREIER:	We would also enter guilty pleas
19	to Section 740 and the 145.	
20	THE COURT:	Accept pleas of guilty to the
21		ng to the 25th day of December.
22	MD ====================================	our Honour, with regard to the
!3		ged to have occurred on the 5th
4		86(2) and Section 740(1), Crown
15	withdraws both.	
6	THE COURT:	here had been a not guilty plea
7	on the Section 762.	

MR. ZIGAYER: We offer no evidence. THE COURT: The matter is dismissed on the Section 86(2) and under Section 740, the Crown is withdrawing the charge. Three charges relating to the 17th of December, as well. MR. ZIGAYER: The Crown will be withdrawing the charges under 740 and 145. MS. BREIER: We intended to plead guilty. THE COURT: Charge under 430 as a mischief, that's within the jurisdiction of this Court and I'll accept 10 a guilty plea. 11 MS. BREIER: We are ready to proceed with facts 12 and sentencing on those charges. 13 THE COURT: I expect we will be able to finalize the sentencing. There won't be any complications? 16 MS. BREIER: Yes. 17 THE COURT: Thank you. 18 MR. ZIGAYER: Your Honour, I'll deal first with 19 the matter of the 17th of December, 1991. On that date in 20 the early morning hours, police in Tuktoyaktuk in the 21 Northwest Territories, received a complaint from a Mr. Joe 22 Hick who reported that persons had been trying to break into 23 his house at number 54. 24 Constable West went to that location and found several 25 large rocks on the ground in front of the door and also 26 found that a window frame had been pried out and the covering of the window removed. He also found chop marks

consistent with an axe having been used in both the front and side doors of that location. The occupants of house 54 had been frightened by this incident and too scared to look out and see who was trying to get in. Several persons were located later and the accused was identified as being one of the individuals responsible for this incident.

MS. BREIER: Those fact are admitted.

THE COURT: Conviction is entered on the

MR. ZIGAYER: Thank you, your Honour. Your Honour, with the regard to the incident which occurred on Christmas day, the 25th of December, 1991, again, the police were contacted in the early morning hours by a resident of Tuktoyaktuk in the Northwest Territories who advised that there was someone on the porch of her home and apparently that person had been stabbed in the abdomen.

The person did not know the circumstances surrounding the injury but had requested the assistance of police. The police went immediately to the residence and found a victim on the floor with a stab wound approximately three-quarters of an inch in width just above the navel.

While that person was being placed in the police vehicle, police officers advised that a second victim, a person who had also been stabbed during the same incident, had a received an injury to the hand. Members of the second victim's family brought that person directly to the nursing station.

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mischief charge.

At that time, the victim of the stabbing to the abdomen was not in any condition to provide details to the police officers with regard to the cause of the injury apart than saying it was a friend who had done it at the -- this stabbing victim's, the one who received the stab wound to the abdomen. His condition deteriorated rapidly and he had to be medivaced to Inuvik.

The second victim was the father of the first victim and he advised the police officers that he and his son had been at a friends residence drinking until about 3:20 in the morning. At that point, the accused knocked at the door and was allowed to enter by one of the residents of the home.

When he had entered into the living room area, he produced a knife and attempted to stab the first victim. At that point the father attempted to stop Mr. Taylor from continuing with the assault and that resulted in his receiving a deep stab wound to the outer part of his right thumb which began to bleed profusely.

At that point, Mr. Taylor made a second lunge and stabbed the victim, the first victim, the one time in the abdomen. There was apparently no conversation which took place before the attack, no provocation, and there was no conversation or explanation or anything said by anyone after the attack. At this time, Mr. Taylor fled the residence.

After being transported to the Inuvik hospital, the victim who had received a stab wound to his abdomen underwent surgery to repair a perforated intestine. The

nursing staff advised that apart from a considerable amount of blood that was lost in Tuktoyaktuk, the doctor discovered a further litre of blood pooled in the abdomen during the course of treatment in Inuvik.

The victim in this case, in the case of the stabbing, was 29 years of age and this wound had the potential of being life threatening had the victim not been so quickly evacuated to Inuvik. The second victim received a wound to the hand which required three sutures to close. He, too, lost a considerable amount of blood and he is 55 years of age and is considered an Elder in the community of Tuktoyaktuk. The identity of the second victim, the one who received the injury to the hand was Stanley Keevik and the one who received the wound to the abdomen was Sonny Keevik, also known as Stanley Keevik, Junior.

At the time this incident occurred, your Honour, the accused was on probation requiring him to keep the peace and be of good behavior. He also was on an undertaking given to a Justice requiring him to keep the peace and be of good behavior.

Sir, those are the circumstances of those four offences.

MS. BREIER: Those facts are admitted.

THE COURT: Convictions are in order on the

four charges, that is wounding, assault with a weapon, breach of probation and breach of an undertaking.

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MR. ZIGAYER: Your Honour, in the matter of

sentencing, I have a two-paged document to hand to you. Ιt is a record of previous convictions.

MS. BREIER:

This record is admitted.

MR. ZIGAYER:

I'll be making a submission to you that what is appropriate in this case is a lengthy period of incarceration, that the Crown does not object to all these matters being dealt with by way of concurrent sentencing, at least with regard to the two assaults. I note that the accused has previous convictions for assault causing bodily harm in 1986, assault in 1990, and assault on a police officer also in 1990. I also note that he has numerous breaches of undertakings for which he has already been incarcerated on numerous occasions.

Your Honour, my submission would be that you may want to consider a period of incarceration up to and including a period of penitentiary duration. And in fact, Mr. Taylor should consider himself lucky that the victim of the stab wound to the abdomen received appropriate medical treatment in Inuvik which preserved his life or he might be facing a much more serious charge today. Those are my submissions.

One more thing just to remind you, of course, that I think in these circumstances, you would be obliged to impose a five year firearm prohibition under Section 100(1) of the Criminal Code.

Your Honour, I have to agree with MS. BREIER: Crown counsel that you must be considering a period of incarceration for Mr. Taylor. The question then becomes the

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duration of that. I would urge you to consider something shorter than penitentiary time as Your Honour is probably aware, people from the Northwest Territories, particularly people from isolated communities like Tuktoyaktuk, can have a very difficult time in penitentiary and it often can be tantamount to a far worse sentence than it is on its face.

In mitigation, I would ask your Honour to consider his very prompt guilty pleas on these offences. Mr. Taylor has little or no recollection of the mischief events and he has no recollection, whatsoever, of the more serious stabbing offences before you. And the reason for that lack of recollection is excessive drinking of alcohol. He has been in custody since December 25th, and I understand that custody has been done in Inuvik. And I would ask your Honour to take that also into consideration in determining the length of his sentence and particularly that Inuvik time, although it hasn't been that long, is again considered to be hard time. There are no facilities in Inuvik. People are held in custody there. They can't leave. They aren't allowed reading materials. They can't smoke, have little or no access to exercise facilities, so I would ask you to keep that in mind.

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Turning to Mr. Taylor, himself, I would advise your

Honour that he is 28 years old. He admits to having a

problem with alcohol. He has told me that he started

drinking when he was 17 years old and there was alcohol

abuse in his family while he was growing up. He knows that

he must get his alcohol problem under control. He has gone as far as Grade 8 in school, but then he did go on to get his Grade 12 general diploma through Adult Education.

He was scheduled to start a course in Fort Smith as a heavy equipment operator starting this-coming September. He is currently unemployed. His last job finished at the end of September of 1991. He had been working with a local contracting company here and was doing carpentry work. This job had taken him through a good part of the summer. Since September, he has supported himself -- or actually, he has contributed to the parents' household expenses, because he lives with his parents, by selling his carvings.

I can personally vouch for the fact that he is a very talented carver. He enjoys carving and has a great deal of skill with it. He first started carving about two years ago and he works with bone and ivory and stone and has considerable talent in that area. So he had been able to sell his carvings to contribute to the household expenses.

Other than that, most of his employment throughout his fairly young life has been doing labor work. He is single and he has no dependents. He feels very badly about these offences. In his own words, he told me that he didn't know until he sobered up. Then as he said to me, "It hit me I was that close to taking a life." He feels a great deal of remorse for that and realizes that he is facing further incarceration for these acts. His only hope is what he can benefit in custody from some of the counselling services

that are available and that hopefully that period of time will help him to deal with his alcohol problem.

Taking those factors into consideration, your Honour, I would simply ask that you consider a period of time that is something short of a penitentiary term.

THE COURT: Thank you. I want to check some cases to see what courts have decided is appropriate for wounding and aggravated assault charges so I think we will take five minutes.

### (BRIEF ADJOURNMENT)

THE COURT: Derrald Taylor is before the Court for sentencing on five matters, that on December 17th, 1991, he was involved with damaging property by throwing rocks and breaking windows and damaging a door and committing mischief on that occasion. He also admits that on Christmas Day, he was heavily intoxicated. He committed an aggravated assault on Sonny Keevik and wounding Sonny Keevik when he stabbed him after entering the Keevik residence. Keevik was 29 years of age and the accused is 28 years of age.

At the time of this stabbing and wounding, Stanley Keevik's father attempted to stop the accused and the accused committed an assault on him with a knife and cut his hand. Sonny Keevik or the Stanley Keevik, Junior, was medivaced and found to have had a three-quarter inch wide abdominal wound that was life threatening. It penetrated part of his body and there was a pool of blood in his abdomen at the time he was checked in the hospital in

Inuvik. Fortunately, the perforated intestine did not cause death.

The accused admits, as well, that on this occasion, Christmas, 1991, he breached his probation order and had also been on an undertaking and breached his undertaking. He comes before the Court as a single person with no dependents and with a criminal record starting in 1983 and continuing regularly until 1990, having been before the Courts on 9 occasions and having been convicted of approximately 30 criminal offences; a number of them of a similar nature. In 1983, he was convicted of an assault, in 1986, of an assault causing bodily harm, again, in 1986, of a weapons offence. In March 1990, he was convicted both of an assault and assaulting a police officer and he has had numerous breaches of undertakings and probation. He has been in jail on a number of occasions for periods in excess of 15 months.

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On hearing the circumstances of the offences before me today, I felt it appropriate to make some inquiries as to what Courts have felt and have imposed as suitable penalties for wounding and for aggravated assaults.

Mr. Justice Richard of the Northwest Territories

Supreme Court in December, 1989, imposed a 12-month jail

term on a somewhat minor wounding in the Mandeville case.

That was one of the lesser jail terms imposed for this type

of offence.

A stabbing case that had taken place in the Northwest

Territories under the heading of the Queen versus Oscar in 1986, was dealt with at Fort McPherson by our former Chief Judge Slaven who had indicated a benchmark for stabbing or an aggravated assault should be a two-year jail term, which would mean that depending on the circumstances of the offence and the offender, the term could either be increased or decreased. If there are aggravated factors, it would be increased and if it was a lesser serious stabbing, the jail term may be decreased.

The Court must consider the incidents of crime of that nature. In other words, it must take into account the ratio of assaults to other offences. If there is a high ratio of violence and assaults in the Northwest Territories, then that's the kind of offence that must be dealt with more severely than others.

The Court had noted in the case of <u>R v Oscar</u> that incidence of violence is high in the Northwest Territories and usually involves alcohol. In that instance, the Court imposed only eight months in jail, but the victim had no permanent injury and had been the spouse of the accused and had returned to living with him. The accused was remorseful and received the benefit of the consequences being of a minor nature.

In the Bradshaw case, Saskatchewan, 1988, reported at page 195, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal had increased the jail term to two years because of the seriousness of the aggravated assault which was bordering on attempted murder

Gabe's

because a wife had shot her husband and he had lost the use of his arm because of nerve damage. In that instance, the accused persons had a very short criminal record, if any, at all.

On the case against Aijo in October, 1989, in New Brunswick, Queen versus Aijo, an accused person was threatening his mother and struck her, tied her up for more than a couple hours while terrorizing her in attempt to obtain money. And that assault resulted in substantial and serious injuries to her. The Court of Appeal in New Brunswick felt that an assault of that nature should result in a five-year period of time in jail.

I take from the records, cases that involve serious assaults require serious penalties. And in this instance I think it would be appropriate to impose more than two years in jail on the accused in total to ensure the public that repeat offenders who do injury to others, even though they are drunk and don't remember it, still must face the consequences and accept the consequences for their act.

Mr. Taylor, is there anything you wish to say to the Court before I complete sentence?

No.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. On the charge relating to the mischief, I'm going to impose one month in jail. That will run concurrently to any other. There will be no surcharge.

On the wounding of Sonny Keevik, I'm going to impose

Gabe's

four years in jail. There will be no surcharge.

On the assault with a weapon, I'm going to impose two years in jail to run concurrently, that means to be served at the same time as the four-year jail term.

On the breach of probation, I'm going to impose three months in jail and allow that to be served concurrently, as well. Also, no surcharge. No surcharge on any of them.

On the breach of an undertaking, five months in jail to run concurrently.

Do you understand, Mr. Taylor? The total is a four-year jail term. The others are all being served concurrently. I would hope that you'll make an effort to get some counselling to do what you can to overcome any That's all. alcohol problems.

I, Joanne McFarland, Court Reporter, hereby certify that I attended the above Hearing and took faithful and accurate shorthand notes and the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my shorthand notes to the best of my skill and ability.

Dated at the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, this 2nd day of April, A.D. 1992.

Court Reporter.

(SENTENCING HEARING ADJOURNED)

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