



Twelfth Judicial District
State of New Mexico
OTERO, LINCOLN COUNTIES

JOHN P. SUGG
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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October 29, 2018

JENNIFER SILVA SENTENCED TO 24 ½ YEARS IN PRISON FOR KIDNAPPING AND DRUG CHARGES

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney John P. Sugg announced today that Jennifer R. Silva, age 35, was ordered to serve the next 24½ years in prison following a change of plea hearing on October 25, 2018 before the Honorable James Waylon Counts.

Silva's sentence came after she pled no contest to being in possession of drugs, cocaine and methamphetamine, in two separate incidents while she was an inmate of the Otero County Detention Center. She also pled no contest to kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, and being a felon in possession of a firearm after she orchestrated a kidnapping earlier this year in Lincoln County.

The kidnapping occurred to settle a \$120 dollar drug debt incurred by the victim's boyfriend. The boyfriend had allegedly agreed to purchase heroin from one of Silva's associates. When the associate gave the boyfriend the heroin, he ran off with the drugs and did not pay the agreed upon \$120. Silva directed her associates to lure the victim to her cousin's residence in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Once there, the women threatened the victim and would not allow her to leave until the money was paid. The boyfriend, scared that his girlfriend would be killed, went to the police for help.

Officers and detectives with the Ruidoso Police Department attempted to rescue the victim at the house in Ruidoso, but Silva and her associates had already moved her to another house in Ruidoso Downs. The boyfriend subsequently arranged a meeting with Silva to exchange the money for his girlfriend which was supposed to occur at the Circle K in Ruidoso Downs. RPD Officers were able to locate and free the victim with the help of the Ruidoso Downs Police Department without her suffering any physical injury. When arrested, Silva was found in possession of a rifle.

Silva has a lengthy criminal history including convictions for Abuse of a Child and Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon) in 2004, Embezzlement (Over \$2,500) in 2005, Aggravated Assault (Deadly Weapon) in 2005, Aggravated Fleeing an Officer and Bribery of a Witness in 2010, and Residential Burglary in 2016. She will be required to serve 5 years of supervised probation upon her release for prison.

These cases were prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney James Dickens.

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