



OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

June 16, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

William Eddins, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, announced today that O.C. Pride, III was sentenced on June 15, 2015, to 87.525 months in the Department of Corrections. The Defendant previously entered a plea of No Contest on April 16, 2015, to six counts of Child Neglect and a Violation of Probation.

The charges arose after a house was destroyed by fire in the early hours of November 1, 2014. The Defendant had been left in charge of his 1 year-old child and five nieces and nephews, ages 3 to 8 years old, on Halloween night. Sometime after 2:00 a.m., while the children were sleeping, the Defendant left the home to go to the Mansion night club to pick up his girlfriend. The Defendant told the deputy that he stayed for a little while before heading back home. While he was gone a fire broke out in the room in which the children were sleeping. The 8 year-old-child smelled smoke, woke up and looked for the Defendant. When she could not find him, she woke up her 7 year-old-brother and together they got the four younger children out of the house where a passing driver stayed with them until EMS arrived. The Defendant was also on probation at the time for the offenses of Driving with a Suspended License and Possession of a Controlled Substance. In addition to his arrest for Child Neglect, he violated that probation by failing to report to probation, absconding from probation, and violating his 7:00 pm to 7:00 am curfew.

The investigation was conducted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the State Fire Marshal's Office, and Assistant State Attorney Jennifer A. Lieb prosecuted the case. Any questions can be directed to Ms. Lieb at (850) 833-9237.