

# Judge grants probation for man convicted of school shooting threat

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CASE NUMBER: 2024-CR-000437

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- An 18-year-old Fort Leavenworth teen who used Snapchat to make a shooting threat involving the Leavenworth High School has been sentenced.

A jury found Kaden Ray Bentley guilty of **Aggravated Criminal Threat** during a trial that took place on Jan. 21, 2025.

On Sept. 16, 2024, Leavenworth police officers were alerted to a potential school shooting threat made on the social media platform Snapchat. Bentley was eventually located at a home in Fort Leavenworth, where he occasionally stayed with a family member.

A portion of the quoted text of Bentley's snap (post) was as follows: **"LHS count yo days (devil emoji), I'm bout to walk in da [expletive] like John Wick."** Court documents noted that John Wick is a fictional character from the John Wick movie series. In the movie, John Wick is a vigilante who brings down an organization by shooting its members.

On Friday, March 21, 2025, Leavenworth County District Court Judge Gerald Kuckelman sentenced Bentley - who had already served 185 days in the Leavenworth County Jail - to probation. The state had requested a 32-month prison sentence, but the judge instead made a border box finding and imposed 36 months of probation. In Kansas, a border box case allows a judge the discretion to impose either a prison sentence or a non-prison sentence if the court makes certain findings.

As part of his probation, Bentley must seek and maintain employment, obtain his GED, and pay court costs. He was also ordered to undergo an anger management evaluation and comply with any recommended treatment.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "As prosecutors, our priority is ensuring the safety of our schools and community. Threats of violence - made in person or online - can have serious consequences. This case serves as a reminder that words do matter." Thompson continued, "This defendant served 185 days in jail. As prosecutors, we don't get to set the sentence; we can only respect what the judge decides."