

**PRESS RELEASE:**

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

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## **High-speed pursuit leads to prison sentence**

**LEAVENWORTH, Kan.** --- A 43-year-old man already serving a prison sentence was sentenced Thursday to an additional 16 months in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections after being convicted of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. The sentence will run concurrent to any sentence he is currently serving.

Raheem K. Armstead was convicted following a jury trial on Jan. 20, 2026, in Leavenworth County District Court of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, as well as multiple traffic violations.

According to court documents, on Feb. 24, 2024, Armstead was driving a motor vehicle and refused to stop when an officer with the Leavenworth Police Department attempted a traffic stop near 7th Street and Ottawa Street in Leavenworth.

When the officer activated emergency equipment, Armstead accelerated away at a high rate of speed, initiating a pursuit through the city. He disregarded the posted 30 mph speed limit and reached speeds in excess of 60 mph during the pursuit. Court records further state that Armstead was driving more than 100 mph on the 45 Highway spur.

Officers were aware that Armstead was driving the vehicle and knew he had outstanding warrants at the time. The pursuit occurred after 1 a.m. and was ultimately discontinued.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said fleeing and eluding offenses pose significant risks to the community.

“Fleeing and eluding law enforcement is not a harmless act. It is a deliberate decision that turns a vehicle into a deadly weapon. When someone chooses to run, they put innocent families, pedestrians, and responding officers directly in harm’s way. These cases are not about avoiding responsibility; they are about reckless choices that can end lives in seconds. Our office will treat flee and elude offenses with the gravity they deserve because public safety depends on it.”