

## **Jury finds Leavenworth man guilty of using Apple AirTag to stalk woman**

OFFICE OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ATTORNEY

TODD THOMPSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY

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CASE NUMBER: 2023-CR-000376

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A Leavenworth man has been found guilty of using a GPS tracking device to stalk his ex.

On June 8, 2023, Aaron Lee Barber, 33, was charged with an individual count of stalking, a class A person misdemeanor.

Following a one-day trial on November 14, a jury found Barber guilty. During the trial, Assistant County Attorney Mary McMullen successfully argued that Barber used an Apple AirTag to track and stalk his victim.

According to court documents, the victim was on her way home from work on April 21, 2023, when she noticed her ex was following her, even stopping at an area gas station and asking the victim if she wanted to hang out. While on her way home from the gas station, the victim saw Barber parked along an onramp to 7 Highway. Barber again followed her. As Barber followed the victim, she received a notification on her iPhone that an Apple AirTag that was near her was being tracked. Barber eventually turned in a different direction before the victim arrived home and called the police. During the investigation, a Leavenworth police officer located the AirTag hidden near the vehicle's spare tire. Records received from Apple Inc., following the execution of a search warrant, revealed that Aaron Barber was the AirTag's owner.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "AirTags are designed to help you locate items commonly lost and are not designed to help people stalk people. An AirTag uses end-to-end encryption, which allows a proactive system to alert you of unwanted tracking. This happened here, and Apple cooperated to assure we had the records to prosecute." Thompson continued, "For all the good ways new technology benefits us, we always find those that try to abuse it."

Sentencing is scheduled for December 18, 2023