

# Man identified by DNA left on a beer bottle sentenced to prison

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CASE NUMBER: LV-2023-CR-300107

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. – A 33-year-old Leavenworth man identified by DNA he left on a beer bottle has been sentenced to prison for assaulting two restaurant employees after dining and dashing.

On June 21, 2024, Joshua M. Moritz was sentenced to 44 months in prison on two counts of Aggravated Assault. He pleaded no contest to the charges on May 10, 2024.

According to court documents, Moritz was dining inside a Mexican food restaurant in Leavenworth on May 19, 2023. Moritz was with his wife and another family member when he attempted to leave the restaurant without paying. When the owner of the restaurant tried to stop Moritz, Moritz assaulted the restaurant owner with a knife.

Following the assault, a restaurant employee saved a beer bottle Moritz had drunk from. When police arrived, the beer bottle was used as evidence. A Leavenworth police officer swabbed the beer bottle for DNA and sent the sample to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, where the results were matched to Moritz's profile.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, “This case was aided by an employee's quick thinking and great work by the Leavenworth Police Department and the KBI. My thanks to everyone who worked together to solve this case.”