

PRESS RELEASE:

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

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Merriam man pleads guilty to stalking after Facebook Marketplace dispute in Leavenworth County

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — A 50-year-old Merriam man has pleaded guilty to stalking following a dispute over the sale of a tractor on Facebook Marketplace.

Matthew E. Nelson pleaded guilty to one count of stalking during a hearing on March 27, 2026.

According to court documents, the charge stems from a series of threatening messages Nelson sent after purchasing an older tractor through Facebook Marketplace.

On Aug. 27, 2025, a Leavenworth County deputy responded to a home in Tonganoxie to investigate reports of text and Facebook messages sent by Nelson. The reporting party told authorities she feared for her safety and the safety of her children due to messages her husband received from Nelson.

Court documents state the victim's husband sold Nelson the tractor and disclosed known issues with the equipment prior to the sale.

Approximately 10 days after the purchase, Nelson began sending increasingly severe messages. According to court records, those messages included statements such as, "I guess I now spend money making you sorry you sold me this mower. Enjoy the next 3 months of your life. What we do in life has real consequences," as well as "I'll see you soon," "revenge is a dish best served cold," and "Keep an eye out."

The following day, Nelson sent an image of the victims' Facebook profile photo with a yellow crosshair drawn over it. Additional messages included derogatory statements, threats, and an image of the victims' children obtained from Facebook. Nelson also sent a location pin (pin drop) for an address in Tonganoxie.

The exchange ended shortly after the victim told Nelson to stop contacting the family and warned that further communication would be considered harassment.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said the case highlights some risks associated with online transactions:

"It's not uncommon for people to buy and sell online, but if you're unhappy with something, there are better ways to handle complaints. If you're looking for a safe space to make a transaction, consider a public space like using a marked parking spot at a local police station." Thompson added. "If you need a protection order, contact law enforcement or apply online at www.kspop.gov."

Sentencing is scheduled for 11 a.m. May 6.