

## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 6, 2026

Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

<https://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthProsecutor>

### **Merriam man sentenced in stalking case tied to Facebook Marketplace dispute**

**LEAVENWORTH, Kan.** — A 50-year-old Merriam man has been sentenced after pleading guilty to stalking in connection with a dispute over the sale of a tractor through Facebook Marketplace.

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

On May 6, 2026, the court sentenced Nelson to 12 months in the Leavenworth County Jail. The court suspended all but 60 days of the sentence. Nelson will serve 60 days in custody, followed by 12 months of supervised probation under a community supervision officer. Probation will begin upon his release from jail.

As part of his sentence, Nelson was ordered to comply with standard probation conditions, pay court costs and probation fees, complete intensive anger management with a licensed therapist as directed, and undergo a substance abuse evaluation and follow all recommendations. He is also prohibited from having any contact with the victims.

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 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 sentence reflects the seriousness of threats made through digital platforms.

“Online disputes can escalate quickly, but threats and intimidation—whether in person or through a screen—are criminal behavior and can be treated as such,” Thompson said.