

Accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound results in prison sentence

OFFICE OF LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ATTORNEY
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LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- An Atchison man who shot himself in the hand with a pistol will serve prison time.

Christian M. Harris, 19, was sentenced on Wednesday, May 17. Harris had previously pleaded guilty to a charge of criminal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and to a charge of interference with law enforcement. Harris received a sentence of 19 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) on the firearm possession charge and 6 months in the KDOC on the interference charge. Both sentences will run concurrently.

On the morning of March 18, 2022, Christian Harris arrived at the emergency room of Saint John's Hospital with a gunshot wound to his hand. The Leavenworth Police Department was notified, and an officer was dispatched to the hospital to investigate how Harris received the injury.

Harris told the officer he accidentally shot himself in the hand with a pistol. Harris advised the shooting took place behind his mother's residence in Woodland Village Apartments. When the officer confronted Harris about inconsistencies in his story, Harris changed his account of what happened.

Through further investigation by the officer, it was learned that Harris was actually inside his mother's residence when the shooting took place. A witness advised Harris was playing with the gun when it fired. The gun was recovered at the scene. Harris is not permitted by law to possess a gun due to a prior conviction.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "Guns aren't toys, we're lucky that no one else was hurt in this careless use of a firearm."