

Apologetic burglar found guilty

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LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A man who crawled through a hole in a building's wall to steal tools, later returning some of them and leaving a note with his name on it, has been found guilty after entering a no-contest plea.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2024, Sean M. Johnson Jr. entered a no-contest plea to a charge of burglary of a non-dwelling. The court accepted his plea and the judge found him guilty.

According to court documents, Johnson entered a house near 9th and Pottawatomie in Leavenworth, Kansas, during the early morning hours of July 19, 2022. He gained access to the house through a hole that had been created in a wall at the back of the house. Later that day, the victim discovered the damage to the wall and noticed that tools were missing from inside the house. The victim reported the incident to the police, and a report was filed.

After filing the initial report, the victim later contacted the police again, stating that Johnson had returned several of the stolen items. Johnson admitted to taking the items without permission and left a handwritten note apologizing for the burglary, which included his name and phone number.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "While apologies are often appreciated, they don't make up for breaking the law. Stealing property that doesn't belong to you is a crime, even if some of the property is returned to the victim."

A sentencing hearing in this case is scheduled for Dec. 4, 2024.