

## **Felon, who lied about having COVID to delay court proceedings and failed to register, awaits sentencing**

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LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- On November 1, 2023, a 20-year-old convicted felon named Westen H. Jackson was found guilty of attempted aggravated violation of the Kansas Offender Registration Act as well as making false information. Jackson had failed to notify the courts of some of his online activities and used falsified COVID test results to delay court proceedings. He was found guilty following a global plea agreement that resolved several cases.

Jackson was ordered to register as an offender in March 2020 due to an adjudication for attempted aggravated indecent liberties with a child. However, in January 2023, a detective checked on Jackson's registration and found that he had been registering for 13 months without providing all his email addresses, online identities, and information relating to membership in any and all personal web pages and online social networks as required by KSA 22-4907(a)(19).

While Jackson's case for aggravated violation of the Kansas Offender Registration Act was pending, he provided two separate forged documents to the court claiming he was positive for COVID-19. However, upon investigation, it was revealed that the notes did not belong to Jackson, and he had altered them to appear as though they were his.

According to Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson, "The Kansas Offender Registration Act exists to protect our community. The Kansas Offender Registration Act is vital as offenders can prey on victims by using online identities and online social media accounts. Proper registration allows law enforcement to monitor offenders' online activities more easily and hopefully prevent future crimes."

Jackson is scheduled for sentencing on December 6, 2023.