

PRESS RELEASE:

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Office of Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson

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Inmate Sentenced for Attempted Aggravated Battery at Lansing Correctional Facility

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — An inmate at a state correctional facility has been sentenced to prison following a dispute over an extra slice of pizza.

William C. Parnell, 42, an inmate at Lansing Correctional Facility, previously pleaded no contest to attempted aggravated battery.

During a sentencing hearing held March 25, 2026, Parnell was sentenced to 16 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections. The judge ordered the sentence to run consecutive to any sentence Parnell was already serving.

According to court documents, the incident occurred Dec. 26, 2019, at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the facility's max dining room. Parnell entered the dining hall, obtained a dinner tray and took an additional slice of pizza from another tray.

A corrections officer repeatedly instructed Parnell to put the tray down and leave the area. Parnell refused to comply.

When the officer attempted to retrieve the tray and again ordered Parnell to leave, Parnell pulled the tray away and threw it on the floor. He then attempted to push past the officer to reach the serving line for another tray.

The officer attempted to detain Parnell, but Parnell did not cooperate, leading to a scuffle.

"Correctional facilities rely on order and compliance to maintain safety for both staff and inmates," said Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson. "This sentence reflects the seriousness of disregarding lawful commands and engaging in behavior that puts others at risk."