



Office *of the* District Attorney General
Ninth Judicial District

Serving Loudon, Meigs, Morgan and Roane Counties
Russell Johnson, District Attorney General

Rockwood man sentenced to 17 years for Roane County crime spree.

Kingston, Tennessee –

Prosecutors in District Attorney General Russell Johnson's Criminal Court Division obtained multiple convictions on May 2, 2016, against a man charged in numerous cases with crimes ranging from misdemeanor drug paraphernalia, theft and vandalism counts to felony vandalism, theft and burglary. In a plea agreement announced before Criminal Court Judge Jeff Wicks, Alex Shane Watts, 35, was convicted of 7 counts of felony burglary, 5 counts of felony theft, and 1 count of felony vandalism; he was also convicted of several misdemeanors. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Watts was sentenced to 17 years with the community corrections program. Watts violated the terms of his community corrections supervision within a week and was subsequently arrested on those violations.

A hearing was held on June 27, 2016, to address Watts' violations of his community corrections supervision. At the request of the prosecutors from the 9th District Attorney General's Office, Watts' community corrections supervision was revoked and he was sentenced to instead serve 17 years in prison with the Tennessee Department of Corrections.

Assistant District Attorney General Lauren Bennett, who prosecuted Watts, said of the sentence: "If you amass 13 felony convictions and continue to perpetrate crimes on the citizens of Roane County, you've earned a significant prison sentence. The people of Roane County deserve a safe and peaceful place to call home."

District Attorney Russell Johnson noted that there were many victims left in the wake of Watts' crime spree. "First and foremost we try to seek restitution for the victims of burglary and theft cases. Therefore, we try to fashion plea agreements to put defendants in a posture to make those restitution payments to their victims. If defendants are in prison they can't pay restitution. Unfortunately for Alex Watts he did not take advantage of the opportunity, so seventeen years in prison is the result."

END OF RELEASE