

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,

v

File No. 1163911A/B

NATALIE HEGEDUS,

Defendant.

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BENCH WARRANT PLEA AND SENTENCING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE, ROBERT T. HENTCHEL, DISTRICT JUDGE  
Paw Paw, Michigan - Tuesday, November 8, 2011

APPEARANCES:

For the People:

None

For the Defendant:

Ms. Natalie Hegedus  
Appearing in Pro Per

RECORDED BY:

Susan L. Klein, CER #3482  
Certified Electronic Recorder

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WITNESSES: PEOPLE

PAGE

None

EXHIBITS

OFFERED

ADMITTED

None

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Paw Paw, Michigan

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 - at 10:51 a.m.

(Court and Defendant present)

PROCEEDING

THE COURT: Natalie -- I can't even say that --  
Hegedus. Is that you?

THE DEFENDANT: One second, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You think that's appropriate in  
here?

THE DEFENDANT: It's not against the law. I  
have to feed my son.

THE COURT: Ma'am, it's my courtroom, I decide  
what's appropriate in here. Come on up, okay?

(Defendant approaches bench)

THE COURT: You have to understand that a Judge  
-- the laws don't apply in a courtroom. The Judge's law  
apply, do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Great. So we're going to get  
along just fine.

The case is 1163911A. How do you say your last  
name?

THE DEFENDANT: Hegedus.

THE COURT: Okay. I didn't mean to mispronounce  
that if I did. Okay.

1 THE DEFENDANT: Okay.

2 THE COURT: And did you get a rights sheet to  
3 read today? A rights document?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Right here.

5 THE COURT: Okay. All right. These rights  
6 apply to this case we're going to talk about. Do you  
7 understand these rights?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

9 THE COURT: That would include the right to have  
10 this Court appoint a lawyer to represent you if you can't  
11 afford one. Do you understand that, too?

12 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Now you received a ticket -

14 THE RECORDER: It's a bench warrant for failing  
15 to appear for a second pretrial.

16 THE COURT: Right.

17 THE RECORDER: Sorry.

18 THE COURT: No, that's okay. You received a  
19 ticket way back when for high speed boating, okay. And  
20 the matter has gone all the way through our process and  
21 proceeding. You were scheduled for a second pretrial  
22 November 4 at 9:15 and then a jury trial November 10 a  
23 9:00 a.m., okay?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

25 THE COURT: Now the bench warrant that we're

1 going to talk about is alleging that you failed to - oh,  
2 then there's another case over here, 'B' which is  
3 operating without a safety certificate. That's also a  
4 misdemeanor, okay?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

6 THE COURT: The bench warrant is alleging that  
7 you were supposed to appear here November 4<sup>th</sup> for a second  
8 pretrial and that you failed to appear.

9 THE DEFENDANT: I came in November 4<sup>th</sup> thinking  
10 it was November 10<sup>th</sup> and I was bringing in my --

11 THE COURT: Now let me finish, okay.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Okay.

13 THE COURT: The bench warrant is saying that you  
14 failed to appear November 4, okay?

15 THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

16 THE COURT: Now a bench warrant is called a  
17 contempt of court, okay?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

19 THE COURT: And a bench warrant is up to 93 days  
20 in jail and/or fines and costs of up to \$7,500. Do you  
21 understand that?

22 THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

23 THE COURT: Yes?

24 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Okay. How do you want to plead on

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not appearing on November 4<sup>th</sup>?

THE DEFENDANT: I guess not guilty because I was under the understanding that it was November 10<sup>th</sup>, when I left.

THE COURT: Okay. Then we're going to set a hearing date because we have to have one since you plead not guilty, okay. So, defendant --

THE DEFENDANT: So I have to -- okay.

THE COURT: Defendant arraigned on bench warrant for fail to appear. Yeah. What your issue may be is the kind of notice, okay, that you went out with.

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.

THE COURT: You probably left with this kind of a notice.

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah.

THE COURT: It has two dates on it.

THE DEFENDANT: Yeah. I noticed that after I came.

THE COURT: If you plead not guilty, which is fine and you can do that and at the hearing on November 4<sup>th</sup> is going to require you to bring in proof that you appeared.

THE DEFENDANT: What do you mean?

THE COURT: Okay. You're charged with not appearing on November 4<sup>th</sup> --

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THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: You plead not guilty.

THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: So you must be saying you appeared on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

THE DEFENDANT: Oh, then -

THE COURT: So you're going to have to bring proof that you did.

THE DEFENDANT: I did come. I went into there.

THE COURT: On November 4<sup>th</sup>.

THE DEFENDANT: On November 4<sup>th</sup>. Because my husband had called over --

THE COURT: Okay, let's have a hearing. We'll just have to have a hearing.

THE RECORDER: Do you want November --

THE DEFENDANT: What do you mean? If I plead guilty what happens then?

THE COURT: I'm going to sentence you for contempt and I'm going to assess about \$25 on each case.

THE DEFENDANT: That's fine. I would rather do that than come back.

THE COURT: Well, you have to come back anyways for a trial unless you plead guilty today to the original charge.

THE DEFENDANT: I'll plead guilty.

1 THE COURT: Do you want to take care of it all  
2 today?

3 THE DEFENDANT: I mean if that's -- I can't take  
4 any more time off of work. I've already missed two days  
5 this week because he's got ear infections and 104 degree  
6 temperature.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Let's go back to the start.  
8 If you plead guilty to the bench warrant for not showing  
9 up on November 4<sup>th</sup> and I'm just going to sentence you, do  
10 you understand?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Did you fail to appear for a second  
13 pretrial conference on November 4<sup>th</sup>?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

15 THE COURT: Okay, let me accept your pleas,  
16 okay.

17 THE DEFENDANT: I can't afford to take any more  
18 time off of work.

19 THE COURT: Okay, we're going to sentence you on  
20 both contemps because there's two charges, okay?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

22 THE COURT: It's going to be \$25 costs on 'A'  
23 and \$25 costs on 'B'. Okay, so obviously the total is  
24 \$50, okay. And then we'll talk about paying in just a  
25 second, okay.

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Now let's switch gears. Let's go back to the original charge, okay. Do you remember it?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

THE COURT: If you plead to the original charges and again, there's two, there's the high speed boating and then there's operating without a safety ticket.

THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: If you plead to those I need to tell you a couple of things. First, you're giving up all your rights.

THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: There won't be a trial now.

THE DEFENDANT: Uh-huh.

(Balance of proceedings recorded but not ordered transcribed)

(At 10:58 a.m., Court proceedings concluded)

COUNTY OF VAN BUREN )

)

STATE OF MICHIGAN )

I certify that this transcript, consisting of 10 pages, is a complete, true, and correct excerpt of the proceedings and testimony taken in this case on Tuesday, November 8, 2011.

Dated: November 10, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan L. Klein, CER #3482  
Certified Electronic Recorder