

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CERRO GORDO COUNTY

STATE OF IOWA,	:	
Plaintiff,	:	Criminal No. FECR025849
	:	
vs.	:	
	:	MOTION TO CONTINUE
	:	SENTENCING AND TO CLOSE
	:	HEARING TO THE PUBLIC
TAWNY MARIE SYMONDS,	:	
Defendant.	:	

COMES NOW the Defendant, by counsel, and moves the Court for an Order to Continue Sentencing and to close the hearing to the public and respectfully states:

1. The Defendant entered an Alford plea to Count III: Child Endangerment in violation of Iowa Code Sections 726.6(1)(b)(c), 726.6(3), and 726.6(6), a Class D Felony on December 11, 2017.
2. The Sentencing in this case has been set for January 29, 2018 at 10:00 a.m..
3. Due to Defense Counsel unavailability, the Defendant asks for a continuation of this hearing.
4. Additionally, as documented in the attachment, there has been much negative social media discussion regarding this case.
5. Due to concerns regarding not only the Defendant's safety, but also of the Court and all parties involved, the Defendant requests that Sentencing be closed to the public.
 - a. The members of the Facebook Page, "Mason City Police Scanner" are planning a protest at the sentencing not only at the courthouse but also in the courtroom during sentencing.
 - b. This is not a Mason City Government sponsored page.
 - c. The members are also calling for the removal of Mr. Dalen, Cerro Gordo County Attorney from office.
 - d. The Defendant is concerned that due to these negative discussions, the Defendant and the Court and all parties involved are not safe during the Sentencing hearing as these are unknown entities not sanctioned by any Mason City Governmental department.
 - e. This group has also copied and pasted screenshots of the Defendant's personal page and listed her address in the postings in an effort to intimidate and condemn the Defendant.
6. The Defendant asks for any Sentencing date to be filed under seal with the court and only the involved parties be allowed to know the date and time of this hearing.

7. The Defendant would not resist having a hearing regarding this matter via phone to accommodate Scott Brown, Assistant AG Attorney, attending this hearing.

WHEREFORE, the Defendant moves the Court for an Order to Continue the Sentencing and to Close this hearing to the public and asks for a hearing regarding this matter.

Respectfully submitted,
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
MASON CITY DIVISION

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