

State of South Carolina Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

May 22, 2017

Woman Pleads Guilty to Multiple Offenses; Receives Ten-Year Sentence

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that Kayla Gosnell, 24, pled guilty on May 18, 2017, to Possessing Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Third Drug Offense; Attempting to Burn & Habitual Traffic Offender. The Honorable Edward W. “Ned” Miller sentenced Gosnell to ten years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Information provided at the hearing by Assistant Solicitor Allen Fretwell established that Gosnell drove a silver Mitsubishi Eclipse into the woods on December 29, 2015, in the area of Moody Bridge Road in Greenville County. An accomplice used a stolen white Chevrolet truck to push the vehicle further into the woods where Gosnell set fire to the interior of the Eclipse with paper and oil. The fire was eventually self-extinguished by consuming all of the oxygen in the passenger compartment, but not before causing over \$4,700 worth of damage. Gosnell gave a recorded statement to police admitting to setting the fire and to knowing the truck was stolen.

On September 29, 2016, Greer Police Department Officer Paul Ward observed Gosnell, driving a pickup truck with a license tag that did not match the vehicle. A records check indicated Gosnell’s license had been suspended as a result of having been declared an Habitual Traffic Offender.

According to Wilkins, Gosnell will not be eligible for parole and will be required to serve at least eighty-five (85) percent of her sentence.