



TETON COUNTY OFFICE OF THE
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2023

Guilty Verdicts in Dangerous Dog Cases

On September 7, 2023, the Teton County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney (TCPA) obtained guilty verdicts at a trial of *State v. Trent Dayton*, CR41-23-0258 and *State v. Joey Dayton*, CR41-23-0259, criminal cases filed following the April 6, 2023 attack in Driggs, Idaho of a five year old child by his neighbors' dog during which the child sustained serious injuries requiring hospitalization. The dog's owners, Trent and Joey "Lisa" Dayton, were each charged with one count of Maintaining a Dangerous Dog under Idaho Code §25-2810.

Teton County Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Laretta Welch tried the cases before Magistrate Judge Jason D. Walker. At the defendants' election, the trial was conducted in front of the judge, without a jury. Evidence was presented that the dog in question, a boxer named "Bella," traversed the fence and entered the yard where the victim child was playing by virtue of snow accumulated along the fence line on the Daytons' property. The dog then proceeded to inflict significant lacerations to the child's face, arms and left leg.

Judge Walker found both Trent and Lisa Dayton guilty of maintaining a dangerous dog that, without justified provocation, inflicted serious injury on a person. Each defendant was sentenced to a suspended sentence of 30 days jail, a fine of \$100 plus court costs and 24 months of probation. The conditions of probation specify that the Daytons must keep the dog confined in a secure, locked enclosure when outside; maintain adequate snow removal to prevent the dog from jumping over the fence; keep the dog on a secure leash when off property; install a clear "Beware of Dog" sign on the property; and provide the Teton County Sheriff's Office with a color photo of the dog to keep on file. The court reserved the right to order the dog to be humanely put to death and/or impose the Defendants' jail time if the Daytons violate the terms of their probation.

Under Idaho Code § 19-5304, the Daytons may be ordered to pay restitution to the victim's family for medical bills and other economic losses sustained as a result of the crime. TCPA has 90 days from the verdict to file a motion for restitution itemizing the losses sustained.

Links:

Case filings in *State v. Trent Dayton*, CR41-23-0258, and *State v. Joey Dayton*, CR41-23-0259, can be found on the iCourt Portal [here](#). The judgment in CR41-23-0258 is attached [here](#). The judgment in CR41-23-0259 is attached [here](#).