

NEWS RELEASE

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**POST FALLS MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN PRISON FOR BURGLARY AND
POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE**

Paul M. Best, 22, of Post Falls was sentenced on January 18th to serve up to eight years in state prison for burglary and possession of methamphetamine, the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney's Office announced today. Best was sentenced by District Judge Lansing Haynes, who ordered that the first three years of the sentence would be fixed, and the remaining five years would be indeterminate, with credit for time served.

On November 16, 2012 Best plead guilty to the offenses. The burglary charge arose from his entry into a Coeur d'Alene residence with a codefendant for the purpose of confronting the men in the residence about an incident the night before involving a woman. While in the residence, the codefendant held two victims by gunpoint while Best held a knife. The codefendant assaulted one of the victims while Best held the gun and watched another victim. Best was later arrested after being charged for his involvement in the burglary by the Coeur d'Alene Police Department, and he admitted to having methamphetamine in his vehicle.

Best has a lengthy criminal history, including numerous juvenile charges, and convictions as an adult for grand theft, felony escape, two counts of petit theft, alcohol possession, and frequenting.

Prosecuting Attorney Barry McHugh praised the work of the Coeur d'Alene Police Department, who investigated the crime, and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney David Robins, who prosecuted the case. "Mr. Best's lengthy criminal history and history of substance abuse indicate an unwillingness and/or inability to follow the laws of this state. Until he changes, he will be a danger to the community to commit further crimes of violence, theft, and drug possession. The Bureau of Prisons will determine when he will have changed enough to avoid further criminal conduct. Until that time, he needs to be incarcerated. I hope that he will have the opportunity to seek treatment and change his ways while in prison so he can be a productive member of society."

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