

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR 17-50083

Plaintiff,

FACTUAL BASIS STATEMENT

vs.

DARCEL RAE FEATHERMAN,

Defendant.

The Defendant states the following facts are true, and the parties agree that they establish a factual basis for the offense to which Defendant is pleading guilty pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(b)(3):

Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety (OST DPS) Law Enforcement Officers were dispatched to Roberta Featherman's residence in Potato Creek on the evening of November 11, 2016.

After gaining entrance to the home, OST DPS officer Tim Peete discovered I.W.C. and J.W.C. on the floor in the living room, covered with blankets. The children were severely emaciated, wearing only diapers. The children appeared extremely disheveled and had limited movement. I.W.C. was extremely weak and could only hold her head up for a few moments before she had to resume laying down. J.W.C. had a bed sore on her hip that was necrotic, additionally, all of the tissue had worn away, exposing the bone. When she was initially found, J.W.C. had light sensitivity issues. It was soon discovered that J.W.C. is blind as a result of chronic non-accidental trauma to her brain. Both children weighed

approximately thirteen pounds and were likely to have died within several days had they not been found.

The Defendant, Darcel Featherman, is the biological mother of I.W.C. (2 years old at the time nearly starved to death) and J.W.C. (3 years old at the time nearly starved to death). J.W.C. is the Defendant's seventh biological child. I.W.C. is the Defendant's eighth biological child. The Defendant gave temporary custody of I.W.C. to her sister, Darshan Featherman, in approximately the spring of 2016. At the same time, the Defendant gave temporary custody of J.W.C. to her mother, Roberta Featherman. At the time the Defendant gave J.W.C. to Roberta she specifically knew that her mother was a life-long alcoholic with anger issues and that she could not care for J.W.C. At the time the Defendant gave I.W.C. to Darshan, the defendant knew that her sister was a methamphetamine user and an alcoholic and was unable to care for I.W.C. When the Defendant gave her children to her family members, she did not have custody or guardianship over her six other children. After leaving her family members with her children, the Defendant spent time in Rapid City and California. The Defendant did not report her children's exposure to child abuse and neglect nor did she check up on them or render care at any time.

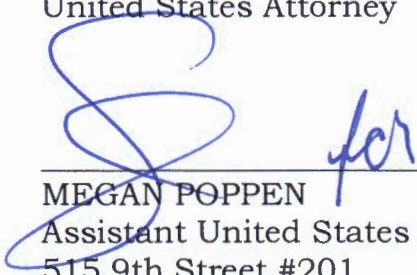
Defendant is an "Indian" under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 1153 in that she is enrolled with the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The offense occurred near Kyle, South Dakota, which is within the exterior boundaries of the Pine Ridge

Reservation. This location is "Indian country" within the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1151 and 1153.

RANDOLPH J. SEILER
United States Attorney

9/11/17

Date


MEGAN POPPEN
Assistant United States Attorney
515 9th Street #201
Rapid City, SD 57701
Telephone: (605)342-7822
Facsimile: (605)342-1108
E-Mail: Megan.Poppen@usdoj.gov


9-7-17

Date


DARCEL RAE FEATHERMAN
Defendant

9/7/17

Date


JUSTIN DIBONA
Attorney for Defendant