



# Office of the County Attorney

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### JURY FINDS MORGAN MAN GUILTY OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CRIME IN THE THIRD DEGREE

A Redwood County District Court jury found a Morgan man guilty of a Controlled Substance Crime in the Third Degree, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Thursday.

The jury deliberated for approximately an hour Tuesday afternoon, October 16, 2018, before delivering the guilty verdict around 5 p.m. After their deliberations, Joseph Robert Clay, 35, was found guilty for the sale of methamphetamine in the City of Morgan.

According to the criminal complaint and testimony at trial, the sale occurred on January 18, 2018 as part of the operatives of the Brown Lyon Redwood Renville Drug Task Force. The defendant sold 3.5 grams of methamphetamine to an individual working with the Drug Task Force at a residence in the City of Morgan.

The Drug Task Force is a group of law enforcement officials from local agencies who work as a team to combat drug offenses in Brown, Lyon, Redwood, and Renville Counties. "The Task Force is an integral part of our fight against drugs in our communities and their hard work continues to make our streets a safer place." Peterson said.

"If you look at the evidence, connect the dots, and complete the picture, one easy, simple conclusion comes out: the defendant sold 3.5 grams of methamphetamine for \$170 here in Redwood County. The defendant is guilty of the crime charged." Assistant Redwood County Attorney Joe Sanow, who tried the case, told the jury in his closing argument Tuesday afternoon.

Clay will be sentenced on November 19th at the Redwood County Courthouse.