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### PRESS RELEASE

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#### JURY FINDS VADNAIS HEIGHTS WOMAN GUILTY OF VIOLATING ORDER FOR PROTECTION

A Redwood County District Court jury found Samantha Taylor Pitkin, 24, of Vadnais Heights guilty of one count of misdemeanor Violation of an Order for Protection, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Monday. The jury deliberated for approximately 20 minutes on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, before delivering the guilty verdict around 2:30 p.m.

According to the criminal complaint, testimony and evidence presented at trial, on September 24, 2020, the Lower Sioux Tribal Police Department was called to a residence located within the Lower Sioux Indian Community in response to a violation of an Order for Protection. Victim was granted an Order for Protection against Pitkin on July 25, 2020. The order prevented Pitkin from being within 500 feet of Victim's residence. Victim stated Pitkin had just been sitting in a white vehicle at the end of Victim's driveway waving her arms with another male who approached her residence and dropped off a letter. Victim stated Victim could hear screaming from outside the residence. Victim also photographed Pitkin parked at the end of Victim's driveway. Minutes after the report, officers located Pitkin driving a white vehicle in the parking lot of the Lower Sioux Community Center. Pitkin admitted to officers she had been at Victim's residence and admitted to knowing of the Order for Protection.

Tom Borgen, Assistant Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in his closing argument, "the photograph taken by Victim and the body camera video showed Defendant and the vehicle she was driving where within 500 feet of Victim residence is."

Pitkin will be sentenced May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Redwood County Courthouse.