

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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WICHITA, KAN. – A former Haysville man who stole more than \$7,000 in charitable donations for a young burn victim was sentenced last Thursday in Sedgwick County District Court.

Martin Kerr, 39 of Wellington, pleaded guilty in March to one count of felony theft for his part in diverting the charitable funds to his personal use.

Kerr was accused of taking the money from an online account called GoFundMe that was set up for an 11-year-old Haysville girl who was burned in September of 2015.

Judge Eric Commer granted Kerr probation and ordered him to make minimum monthly payments of \$150 over the next five years. The total loss in the case was \$7,463.95. Under Kansas law and Mr. Kerr’s lack of criminal history, the crime was a “presumptive probation.”

Judge Commer noted that more than 100 people donated to the account, and the money was supposed to be used to help the girl and her family with expenses related to her injuries.

Judge Commer told Kerr that he could serve six months in prison if he did not follow the requirements of probation.

A co-defendant was also charged in the case. She is set for jury trial in June.

The case was investigated by the Haysville Police Department.

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