

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, December 18, 2019

**WICHITA, KAN.** – Today, Judge Kevin O'Connor sentenced Eli Mendoza, 29 of Wichita, to 666 months in prison. Last August, a jury found Mendoza guilty of attempted first degree murder, aggravated robbery, criminal possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, aggravated domestic battery, and criminal threat.

On August 9, 2018, Mendoza asked his girlfriend to give him a ride to work. After getting in the woman's car in the 2300 block of S. Water, he placed a gun to the woman's head and said, "Drive, or I will shoot you." The woman attempted to push the gun away and escape the vehicle when Mendoza fired one shot, striking her in the left arm and chest. As the woman fell from the driver side door, Mendoza fired again, striking her in the right arm. The victim was able to escape by running over to another car in the area of Mt. Vernon and Water and screaming for help. Mendoza drove off in his girlfriend's car when he saw three people in the car the woman ran toward.

Mendoza was captured on August 20, 2018, near Portales, New Mexico.

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