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C. Chris Widmer  
Katherine E. Schutz  
Veronica Stafford

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For Immediate Release

Sentencing Date Set for March 19, 2026, at 1:30PM for Owner of Hawkeye Waste Systems, Inc. for  
Failure to Maintain Workers' Comp Insurance

January 22, 2026 (JOHNSON COUNTY, IA) – Sentencing is now set for March 19, 2026, at 1:30pm in Johnson County District Court for James Watts, 83, of Bettendorf, Iowa. Watts pled guilty on January 16, 2026, to the charge of Failure to Maintain Workers' Comp Insurance, a Class D Felony, on behalf of himself and Hawkeye Waste Systems.

In April 2025, Johnson County Attorney Rachel Zimmermann Smith filed charges against Hawkeye Waste Systems and four of its employees and corporate officers for Failure to Maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance after an employee died after a workplace accident at their Iowa City location. Matthew Reuwsaart died on November 9, 2024, from injuries sustained in a workplace incident. An investigation by the Iowa Division of Worker's Compensation revealed that Hawkeye Waste Systems did not have worker's compensation insurance as required by Iowa Code.

-END-

**Attached:**

Guilty Plea

Sentencing Order

## IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

STATE OF IOWA,	)	Nos. FECR146317; FECR146312
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	WAIVER OF RIGHTS
	)	
HAWKEYE WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.	)	AND PLEA OF GUILTY
JAMES WATTS	)	
CHRIS WATTS	)	
MARY SHEEN	)	
CHRIS DOHRER,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**DIVISION I: OFFENSES**

1. I ask permission of the Court to enter pleas of guilty to the following offense(s):

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE, a Class D Felony, in violation of Iowa Code section 87.14A.

**THE CHECKBOX OPTIONS BELOW ARE PROVIDED AS A CONVENIENCE TO THE PARTIES. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PARTIES TO ENSURE THAT INFORMATION FOR THE SPECIFIC CHARGE(S) TO WHICH A DEFENDANT IS PLEADING IS CURRENT AND ACCURATE. ANY INACCURACIES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE COURT.**

**CLASS D FELONIES**

Unless specified below, the maximum punishment is an indeterminate 5-year prison sentence and \$10,245 fine and the minimum sentence is a suspended 5-year prison sentence, supervised probation, and \$1,025 fine. There is a 15% surcharge on any fine, plus court costs, attorney fees, DNA sample requirement, and victim restitution, if any. Probation includes a \$300 fee and possible placement on the Intermediate Sanctions Continuum. All felony convictions and deferred judgments result in loss of gun rights.

<i>Count</i>	<i>Charge</i>	<i>Code Section</i>	<i>Additional Minimum Sentence</i>
	Assault without Intent but Causing Serious Injury	708.1, 708.2(5)	
	Assault on Persons Engaged in Certain Occupations (Causing Bodily Injury)	708.1, 708.3A(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Attempted Burglary 2d Degree	713.6	
	Burglary 3d Degree	713.6A(1)	
	Child Endangerment	726.6(1)(a), 726.6(7)	
	Criminal Mischief 2d Degree	716.1, 716.4	

	Domestic Abuse Impeding Airway (With Bodily Injury)	236.2(2), 708.1, 708.2A(1), 708.2A(5)	IDAP classes \$90 Domestic Abuse surcharge <input type="checkbox"/> 5-year dangerous weapon minimum § 902.7 if committed to DOC (prison)
	Eluding	321.279(2)(a)	
	Felon in Possession of a Firearm	724.26(1)	2-year mandatory minimum prison sentence for a first offense which cannot be suspended unless recommended by the county attorney. 4-year mandatory minimum prison sentence for a second offense which cannot be suspended
	Forgery	715A.2(1), 715A.2(2)(2)(a)	
	Going Armed with Intent	708.8	
	Intimidation with a Dangerous Weapon (Threat)	708.6(2)	
	OWI 3d or Subsequent Offense	321J.2, 321J.2(2)(c)	Minimum sentence is a 5-year prison sentence with all but 30 days suspended and supervised probation, \$3,125 fine, substance abuse evaluation and treatment, 12-hour drinking driver's class and 6-year driver's license revocation. Maximum fine is \$9,375.
	Possessing Contraband (Drugs in Jail)	719.7(1)(a), (4)(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive sentence § 901.8
	Possession of a Controlled Substance 3d Offense	124.401(5)	
	Possession with the Intent to Deliver (Marijuana)	124.401(1)(d)	
	Sex Offender Violation 2d or Subsequent Offense <input type="checkbox"/> 692A.104 <input type="checkbox"/> 692A.105 <input type="checkbox"/> 692A.108	692A.104 or, 692A.105 or, 692A.108, and 692A.111(1)	692A.106(5) requires lifetime registration if this is a 2d offense.
	Tax Stamp Violation	453B.7, 453B.12(2)	Civil penalty is equal to tax owed. Revenue tax of \$5 per gram plus interest § 453B.7. 437.1
	Theft 2d Degree	714.1, 714.2(2)	
	Willful Injury (No Serious Injury)	708.4(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-year gun minimum § 902.7 if committed to DOC (prison)

### AGGRAVATED MISDEMEANORS

Maximum punishment is an indeterminate sentence not to exceed 2 years in prison and a fine in the amount of \$8,540, OWI 2d max fine is \$6,250. There is a 15% surcharge on any fine, plus court costs, attorney fees, possible DNA sample requirement, and victim restitution, if any. Any form of probation carries a \$300 fee. Minimum sentence is an \$855 fine plus surcharges unless specified below.

<i>Count</i>	<i>Charge</i>	<i>Code section</i>	<i>Additional minimum sentence</i>
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Assault with Intent to Inflict Serious Injury	708.1, 708.2(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Assault while Displaying Dangerous Weapon/Use of Dangerous Weapon	708.1, 708.2(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Assault on Persons Engaged in Certain Occupations (No Injury)	708.1, 708.3A(4)	7 days <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Burglary 3d Degree	713.6A(2)	
Child Endangerment	726.6(1)(a), 726.6(8)	
Criminal Mischief 3d Degree	716.5	
Domestic Abuse Enhanced	236.2, 708.1, 708.2A(3)(b)	2 days and Iowa Domestic Abuse Program classes (IDAP) \$90 Domestic Abuse surcharge <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Domestic Abuse (Strangulation) (No Injury)	708.1, 708.2A(2)(d)	2 days and Iowa Domestic Abuse Program classes (IDAP) \$90 Domestic Abuse surcharge <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Driving While Barred	321.561	
Eluding	321.279(1)(b)	
Forgery - Credit Card	715A.6(2)	
Harassment 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	708.7(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Interference with Official Acts (Causing Serious Injury)	719.1(1)(d)	
Operating without Owner's Consent	714.7	
OWI 2d Offense	321J.2	7 days, \$1,875 fine, impoundment of vehicles, substance abuse evaluation and treatment
Possession of Controlled Substance 2d Offense	124.401(5)	2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Possession of Controlled Substance 3d Offense (Marijuana)	124.401(5)	2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Tampering with Records	715A.5	
Theft 3d Degree	714.1, 714.2(3)	
Use of a Dangerous Weapon	724.4	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
Unauthorized Use of a Credit Card	715A.6(2)(c)	

#### SERIOUS MISDEMEANORS

Maximum punishment is 1 year jail and a fine of \$2,560, OWI max fine is \$1,250. There is a 15% surcharge on any fine, plus court costs and attorney fees, plus victim restitution, if any. Possession of Marijuana has a maximum sentence of 6 months jail and a \$1,000 fine (minimum fine is \$0), plus 15% surcharge, court costs, and attorney fees. Any form of probation carries a \$300 fee.

Minimum sentence is a \$430 fine plus surcharges unless specified below.

<i>Count</i>	<i>Charge</i>	<i>Code section</i>	<i>Additional minimum sentence</i>
	Absence from Custody	719.4(3)	Consecutive to existing sentences
	Assault Causing Bodily Injury	708.1, 708.2(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Assault Causing Bodily Injury Domestic	236.2, 708.1, 708.2A(2)(b)	2 days and Iowa Domestic Abuse Program classes (IDAP) \$90 Domestic Abuse surcharge <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Domestic Abuse Enhanced (Two Prior Simple Misdemeanor Domestics)	236.2, 708.1, 708.2A(3)(a)	2 days and Iowa Domestic Abuse Program classes (IDAP) \$90 Domestic Abuse surcharge <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Criminal Mischief 4th Degree	716.1 & 716.6	
	Driving while Revoked/Barred/Suspended	321J.21	\$1,000 fine mandatory, suspension/bar/revocation doubled
	Eluding	321.279(1)(a)	
	Harassment 2d Degree	708.7(3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Interference with Official Acts (Causing Bodily Injury)	719.1(1)(c)	
	OWI 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	321J.2	2 days, \$1,250 fine, substance abuse evaluation and treatment
	Persons Ineligible to Carry Weapons	724.8B	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights (drug possession)
	Possession of Marijuana 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	124.401(5)	2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Possession of Marijuana 2d Offense	124.401(5)	2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Possession of Cocaine	124.401(5)	2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Possession of Methamphetamine	124.401(5)	2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights
	Sex Offender Violation 1 <sup>st</sup> Offense <input type="checkbox"/> 692A.104 <input type="checkbox"/> 692A.105 <input type="checkbox"/> 692A.108	692A.104 or, 692A.105 or, 692A.108, and 692A.111(1)	
	Theft 4 <sup>th</sup> Degree	714.1, 714.2(4)	
	Unlawful Possession of Prescription Drug	155A.23(4)(a)	<input type="checkbox"/> Conviction may result in loss of gun rights

2. I understand that the Court may sentence me to consecutive sentences for multiple offenses including other pending cases or probation and/or parole.

## **DIVISION II: PRELIMINARY ADMISSIONS**

3. I am represented by undersigned counsel.
4. I can read, write, and understand the English language (or see interpreter certification at the end of this document). I have had enough time and opportunity to meet or speak with my attorney. I am satisfied with their representation and the services they provided.
5. I am not under the influence of any illicit drugs or alcohol. I have not used any illicit drugs or alcohol in the past 24 hours. I have not taken any medication(s) other than as prescribed by my doctor in the past 24 hours. To the extent that I am taking medication as prescribed, those medications do not affect my ability to understand the contents and consequences of this written guilty plea.
6. I do not have a physical or mental condition that prevents me from understanding the charge(s) or proceedings.
7. I authorize my attorney to appear on my behalf.
8. I have received, read, and reviewed the trial information and minutes of testimony with my attorney. I understand the nature of the charges against me and what the State would be required to prove.
9. I have discussed possible legal defenses with my attorney, including any potential suppression issues. I know of no legal defense to the charge(s), suppression issue(s), or any other reason that would change my decision to enter this written guilty plea.
10. I understand that by pleading guilty, I may not be able to vote, hold public office, or possess firearms or ammunition. I further understand that certain convictions can have adverse consequences with housing, employment, federal or state benefits, student loans, and driving privileges in addition to other consequences.
11. If I am convicted of two or more felony offenses in my lifetime, I may be subject to an enhanced sentence as a habitual felon. Furthermore, if I am pleading guilty to theft (Iowa Code section 714.1) or domestic abuse assault (Iowa Code section 708.2A), this plea of guilty may be considered in determining whether future allegations of theft or domestic abuse assaults are charged as enhanced offenses.
12. I understand that if I am currently on probation or parole this guilty plea could be a basis for revocation of that probation or parole. I further understand that the Court may revoke my probation or parole and order those terms to be served consecutive to any punishment imposed in this case.

## **DIVISION III: WAIVER OF RIGHTS**

13. I understand that I have the right to remain silent and that anything that I say can and will be used against me in a court of law.
14. I understand that I have the right to be represented by an attorney, before, during, and after trial and that if I do not have the means to pay for the services of an attorney, the Court will appoint an attorney to assist me. The costs of such attorney will be paid at State expense. However, the Court can require me to repay the State the costs of that attorney as Category B restitution.
15. I understand that if I wish I can continue with my plea of not guilty and require that my case be decided by a speedy and public jury trial consisting of 12 persons. If I plead guilty, I give up my right to a jury and to participate in selecting a jury. I can also elect to have my case decided by a judge. If I continue in my plea of not guilty, I have the following rights:
  - a) To see, hear and to have the opportunity to cross-examine any witness that the State calls to testify.
  - b) To present witnesses who would give testimony in my favor and to avail myself of the power of the court, if necessary, to subpoena those witnesses to present themselves in court.
  - c) To testify personally or to remain silent, as I wish. No one can require or force me to testify at my own trial and if I decide not to testify, the jury who decides my case cannot hold my silence against me. Moreover, if I remain silent, the attorney for the State cannot comment to the jury regarding my refusal to testify. That is to say: My right to remain silent cannot be used against me.
  - d) It is presumed by law that I am innocent and not guilty of the charges against me until such time, if ever, as the attorney for the State establishes my guilt to the satisfaction of the jury by competent evidence so that there remains no reasonable doubt.
  - e) The members of the jury must be unanimous in their verdict.

## **DIVISION IV: PLEA AGREEMENT**

16. The terms of the plea agreement in this case are as follows: Defendant James Watts pleads guilty as charged in Case No. FECR146317, and pleads guilty on behalf of Hawkeye Waste Systems in FECR146312. Defendant is free to argue for any legal sentence, including a deferred judgment. The State

has agreed not to recommend prison and agrees that any recommended fines in both cases will be suspended  
The State further agrees to dismiss all related charges against Defendants Chris Watts, Mary Sheen, and  
Chris Dohrer.

- ☒ Request deferred judgment ☐ Sentencing hearing required  
☐ Request payment plan ☐ Request category B hearing ☐ Defendant waives hearing on category B restitution and consents to the Court making a determination based on the financial affidavit filed by the Defendant  
☐ Order pre-sentencing PSI ☐ Order post-sentencing PSI  
☐ Bond remains the same ☐ Defendant ROR'd ☐ Defendant released on pre-trial supervision  
☐ No Contact Order continues for \_\_\_\_\_ years ☐ Cancel No Contact Order  
☐ This is a Rule 2.10 plea ☐ This is an Alford plea  
☐ This is a conditional plea pursuant to Rule 2.8(2)(b)(9). Defendant is reserving the right to have an appellate court review the adverse determination on the following pretrial motion(s): \_\_\_\_\_

17. Unless this is a Rule 2.10 plea, I understand the Court is not party to this agreement and that this agreement does not bind the Court in any manner.

18. Apart from the plea agreement, no one has made any promises or threats to me to influence me or force me to plead guilty. Moreover, unless this is a Rule 2.10 plea, no one has predicted to me or assured me what sentence I will receive. I make this plea voluntarily.

### **DIVISION V: FACTUAL BASIS**

19. On or about October 1, 2024, in Johnson County, Iowa, I, James Watts, personally and as the  
owner and registered agent of Hawkeye Waste Inc willfully and knowingly engaged in business  
without first obtaining workers' compensation insurance as required by Iowa Code Chapter 85.

I have read the trial information and the minutes of testimony and acknowledge that they are substantially correct insofar as necessary to provide a factual basis for the offense(s) previously listed, and I ask the Court to find me guilty of those offense(s).

20. By declaring myself guilty of this offense I admit to the Court that the State can prove all the elements of this (these) offense(s) so that there remains no reasonable doubt, and there is a basis in reality which establishes my guilt. The minutes of testimony are true to the extent necessary to support this (these) guilty plea(s). I give up, and I understand that I lose, my above-stated rights and I understand that this case will not be presented to a tribunal (judge or jury) for trial. I am guilty of the offenses indicated herein. I waive the procedures set forth in Rule 2.8(2)(b) of the Iowa Rules of Criminal Procedure.

21. (a) I plead guilty to the following simple misdemeanor(s)/citation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

(b). I request a trial in Magistrate's Court on the following simple misdemeanor(s)/citation(s) and understand that a date will be mailed to me by the Clerk of Court: \_\_\_\_\_

22. If this is an enhanced charge, I admit the following: (a) I understand that I have the right to a separate trial on the issue of whether I have prior convictions that increase the sentence in this case. I also understand that I would be entitled to the same trial rights explained in Division III. (b) I understand that I have the right to a hearing before a judge to determine, and have the State prove, whether I was represented by an attorney or waived my right to be represented by an attorney in the prior case(s). (c) By entering this written guilty plea, I understand that I am waiving my right to a separate trial on the issue of identity. I also understand that I am also waiving my right to a hearing before a judge on the issue of whether I was previously represented by an attorney. (d) In addition, I admit that the allegations of prior offenses contained in the trial information as to state, county, case number, and date of violation are true and accurate. I also admit that I was either represented by counsel or waived my right to counsel.

### **DIVISION VI: WAIVER OF SENTENCING RIGHTS**



23. Unless I have requested a sentencing hearing in Division IV, I hereby understand and waive the following sentencing rights:

- a) *Right to be Present at Sentencing*: I hereby know, understand, and waive my right to appear in person for sentencing.
- b) *Right to Delay in Sentencing*: I waive my right to a delay of a 15-day delay before the pronouncement of judgment and sentence.
- c) *Right of Allocution*: I hereby waive my right to address the Court personally.
- d) *Motion in Arrest of Judgment*: I waive my right to file a Motion in Arrest of Judgment. This is a motion which challenges the adequacy of the guilty plea. A Motion in Arrest of Judgment must be filed within 45 days after the plea but no later than 5 days prior to sentencing, whichever comes first. Failure to file a timely Motion in Arrest of Judgment precludes me from challenging any defects in my guilty plea, including any challenges to the guilty plea on appeal.

24. *Pre-Sentence Investigation*: If this is a felony plea, and unless I requested a presentence investigation in Division IV above, I waive my right to have a presentence investigation report (PSI) prepared prior to this sentencing. I understand that if I enter a plea of guilty to a felony, a PSI must be ordered by the Court pursuant to Iowa Code section 901.2 and that I cannot waive the preparation of a PSI. I understand that I have a right to have the Court use the PSI when determining my sentence in this case. The report would contain information and background about myself, including information about my family, employment, education, substance abuse or mental health treatment, military service, prior criminal history, and other social history. The report would also include information from the Iowa Department of Corrections regarding my rehabilitative needs and services available as well as a sentencing recommendation. I understand that the report could contain information favorable to me.

25. My attorney has advised me of the above listed rights.

## **DIVISION VII: IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES**

26. I have been advised that if I am not a United States citizen, a criminal conviction, deferred judgment, or deferred sentence may affect my status under federal immigration laws. I have consulted with my attorney and considered the immigration consequences that include, but are not limited to, deportation, inability to reenter the United States, mandatory detention in immigration custody, ineligibility for release on bond during immigration proceedings, and increase penalties for unauthorized reentry into the United States. I have been further advised that I should seek an immigration attorney if I have any questions about the impact of this conviction, deferred judgment, or deferred sentence on my immigration status now or in the future.

## **DIVISION VIII: APPEAL RIGHTS**

27. I understand that by submitting this written guilty plea, I no longer have an absolute right to appeal my conviction. To appeal, I now need to establish good cause. If I choose to appeal, a notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days of sentencing, or I will not be able to appeal my conviction.

## **DIVISION IX: RESTITUTION**

28. Category A restitution: I understand that I may be assessed category A restitution, which encompasses monetary damages to crime victims (referred to as pecuniary damages), fines, penalties, and surcharges. I understand that I will be required to pay, in full, pecuniary damages, if any, and category "A" restitution, except for any fines, penalties, or surcharges that are suspended.

29. Category B restitution: I further understand that I may be assessed category B restitution, which encompasses repayment of contributions to local anticrime organizations that provided assistance to law enforcement in this case, crime victim compensation program reimbursements, expenses incurred by public agencies pursuant to Iowa Code section 321J.2(13)(b), court costs, court-appointed attorney fees and expenses (including the expense of a public defender), and medical assistance program reimbursements pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 249A.

30. Reasonable ability to pay: I understand that I may ask the Court to determine the amount of category B restitution payments that I am reasonably able to pay. I understand that I am presumed to have the reasonable ability to make payments for the full amount of category B restitution. I understand that if I do not ask the Court to make the determination at the time of sentencing or within 30 days of the issuance of a restitution order, and that if I do not file a completed financial affidavit and prove that I am not reasonably able to make payments toward the full amount of category B restitution, I will be ordered to pay the full amount of category B restitution, and I will waive future claims regarding my reasonable ability to pay, except as provided by Iowa Code section 910.7.

## **DEFENSE ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION**

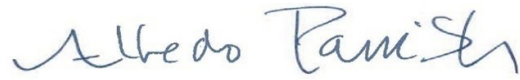


1. I certify, as an officer of the court, that I have had ample opportunity to confer with my client. I have provided my client with the opportunity to ask any question that they may have. I have explained the contents of this written guilty plea, their waiver of rights, the minimum and maximum punishments, the plea agreement, the collateral consequences for a conviction of these offenses, and the possible defenses and strategies. I have investigated these offenses, which includes reviewing discovery material related to this matter, and I am not aware of any legal reason why the Court should not accept this waiver of rights, plea agreement, and petition to plead guilty.

2. I further certify that after discussing these matters with my client, I believe they knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily executed this waiver of rights and written guilty plea and request the Court accept it, consistent with the terms set forth herein.



ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT



ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION**

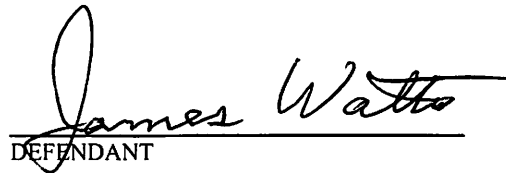
1. The State agrees to the plea agreement outlined above and agrees to dismiss all indictable related simple misdemeanors and or citations at the Defendant's cost unless otherwise provided in paragraph 21.
2. If this is a felony, the State waives presence for sentencing unless in-court sentencing is requested or required.
3. If this plea is entered pursuant to Rule 2.8(2)(b)(9), the State consents to the entry of the conditional guilty plea.
4. Unless a hearing is requested below, the State waives a hearing on category B restitution and consents to the Court deciding based on the financial affidavit filed by the Defendant.  
☐ A court hearing is needed to determine category B waiver.
5. ☐ No in-court sentencing required. Victim, if any, waives in-court impact statement. ☐ In-court sentencing required.



~~(XXXXXX)~~ COUNTY ATTORNEY

### **DEFENDANT CERTIFICATION**

I have read this entire document. I have had the opportunity to discuss this Waiver of Rights and Written Guilty Plea with my attorney and ask questions. I understand the contents and consequences of this written guilty plea as explained above, I also understand that by pleading guilty, I am giving up the rights set forth above and that there will not be a trial on this offense(s). I am pleading guilty because I am in fact guilty of the offense(s) detailed in Division I of this petition. I knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily enter this written guilty plea and request that the Court accept it consistent with the terms set forth herein. I am waiving my right to personally appear before the Court for plea and sentencing unless otherwise noted above or alternatively ordered by the Court.

  
DEFENDANT

I am an interpreter, and I certify that I have read this document to the defendant in \_\_\_\_\_ and/or have provided interpretation in that language for the defendant and his/her attorney, as requested.

## IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

52SS

STATE OF IOWA,

vs.

JAMES LYLE WATTS

06521 FECR146317

CHANGE OF PLEA/SET SENTENCING

The defendant appears by written plea, with the approval of counsel, and asks permission to withdraw the previously entered plea of not guilty for the purpose of entering a plea of guilty to the crime of No Workers Compensation Insurance in violation of Iowa Code Section 87.14A.

The Court, from an examination of defendant's plea, finds that the guilty plea is made by the defendant voluntarily with the full knowledge of the defendant's constitutional rights and of the potential penal consequences. The Court further finds from an examination of the Trial Information, the Minutes of Testimony, and the written plea, that there is a factual basis for the charge filed and for the defendant's guilty plea. Accordingly, the guilty plea is accepted. The Court finds that a time be set and fixed for judgment and sentence.

Sentencing hearing is set for the following reason(s) **There is no agreement as to sentencing.**

**A pre-sentence investigation shall be conducted by the 6th District Iowa Department of Corrections with a written report to be filed three days prior to the sentencing date.**

The County Attorney is directed to provide the Court with defendant's driving record, if relevant, and criminal history at the time of sentencing.

**Sentencing Hearing is scheduled on 03/19/2026 at 01:30 PM at the Johnson County Courthouse, Iowa City, Iowa.**

Defendant is advised of the right to challenge his/her guilty plea by filing a motion in arrest of judgment at least five days prior to sentencing and within 45 days after acceptance of the guilty plea.

**ANY OPEN WARRANTS IN THIS CASE ARE RECALLED.**



State of Iowa Courts

**Case Number**  
FECR146317  
**Type:**

**Case Title**  
STATE OF IOWA VS WATTS, JAMES LYLE  
Order for PSI

So Ordered

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Jason A. Burns, District Associate Judge,  
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Electronically signed on 2026-01-21 13:47:33