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News Release

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Man pleads guilty to escaping from federal custody

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 27-year-old man pleaded guilty to escaping from custody on February 13, 2011, while serving time for violating the terms of his supervised release. Zachary Koehler, no known address, who was charged on March 18, 2011, entered his plea before United States District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen.

In his plea agreement, Koehler admitted he did not return to the Benton County Jail as required under the furlough agreement granted to him. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the case, Koehler was sentenced on October 23, 2009, to 21 months in prison for violating the terms of his supervised release. Koehler was originally convicted for bank robbery. While in Benton County, Koehler was granted privileges through the U.S. Bureau of Prisons under the jail's work release program. On February 13, Koehler was granted a pass to leave the jail on a furlough and agreed to return. Koehler had been granted a similar furlough the previous week. He was arrested on February 24, 2011, in Maplewood.

For his crime, Koehler faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison. Judge Ericksen will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Marshals Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Steinkamp.

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