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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATHENS, Ohio – Benjamin O. Bellar, 24, of Athens, Ohio, appeared before Judge George P. McCarthy on February 25, 2016, and entered changes of pleas to guilty to two (2) indictments, one charging Theft from a Person in a Protected Class and the other for charges relating to the Illegal Manufacture of Methamphetamine and Abduction.

Prosecutor Blackburn reports that “In September of 2015, Benjamin O. Bellar did use an ATM card belonging to an elderly individual without permission. Then, in January of this year, officers were called to Bellar’s residence for a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival, officers did locate an active meth lab in the basement of the home. Bellar’s Abduction charges stem from the domestic disturbance in which he held the victim against her will.”

Judge McCarthy sentenced Bellar to a total prison term of eight (8) years. Upon release from incarceration, Bellar will be subject to a mandatory term of five (5) years of post-release control.

The theft case was investigated by the Athens County Sheriff’s Office and the drug case was investigated by the Major Crimes Unit.