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**NEWS RELEASE**

**23-YEAR-OLD APPLE VALLEY MAN SENTENCED FOR  
FATALLY SHOOTING HIS FRIEND**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Derrick Wallace Dahl, age 23 of Apple Valley was sentenced today by Judge Erica MacDonald in connection with the fatal shooting of 22-year-old Benjamin Allen Hanson of Welch, Minnesota that took place on July 23, 2011 around 9:00 p.m. Dahl received a stayed prison sentence of 48 months and was placed on probation for 10 years. As conditions of probation Dahl was ordered to serve 90 days in jail and pay restitution. At the time of his guilty plea on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to Manslaughter in the Second Degree, Dahl indicated that he and friends, including the victim, were handling several handguns at a home in Burnsville. Thinking the weapon was unloaded, Dahl cocked a 45-caliber semi-automatic handgun, pointed it at the victim's head and pulled the trigger. The gun discharged and Hanson was shot in the head. He died the next day.

Backstrom commented: "This was a preventable death that could easily have been avoided if two of the most basic gun safety maxims had been followed: You should always assume a gun is loaded and you should never point a gun at another person."

For a copy of the criminal complaint, go to <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/ComplaintSearch>. A mug shot may be viewed at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/InmateSearch> while in custody.

Backstrom expressed his sympathy to the family of Benjamin Hanson.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.