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PRESS RELEASE

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REDWOOD FALLS WOMAN FOUND GUILTY OF ASSAULTING A PEACE OFFICER

REDWOOD FALLS, MN --- A Redwood County jury found Emiley Brooke Halvorson, of Redwood Falls, guilty of one count of Fourth Degree Assault of a Peace Officer. The jury deliberated for approximately five hours on March 7, 2024, before delivering the guilty verdict around 5:45 p.m.

According to the evidence gathered during the investigation, body worn camera footage, and testimony provided at trial, on January 26, 2023, Southwest Health and Human Services (SWHHS) had custody of Halvorson's four children pursuant to a Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) case, however, the children were placed on a trial home visit with Halvorson. On that same date, SWHHS and officers from the Redwood Falls Police Department responded to Halvorson's parent's residence within the City of Redwood Falls to assume custody of the children after learning the youngest child's hair test was positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine, and extremely high levels of THC.

Upon arrival at the residence, Halvorson immediately became confrontational yelling, screaming, using profanity and telling SWHHS and Officers she would not be giving them her children. Halvorson then retreated into her parent's home. Officers approached the residence and made contact with Halvorson for a second time at the front door of the residence. Again informing Halvorson they were there to take physical custody of the children due to the positive hair test. Officers stood on the front step while Halvorson stood just inside the door refusing to comply with the request to go get the children and attempting to shut the door on officers and re-enter the residence. Officers stood in the doorway of the residence to prevent her from shutting the door. While officers stood there, Halvorson braced her arms against the door frame and pushed into one of the Officers with her chest causing the officer to step backward. Halvorson continued to yell and push against the Officer in an attempt to force the

Officer out of the door. Halvorson was so close to the Officer as she was yelling and screaming, her spit and saliva was hitting the Officer in the face. While Halvorson verbally and physically assaulted the Officer, the children were immediately behind her observing her behavior.

Shannon Ness, Assistant Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, "Removing children from someone they love and who undoubtedly loves them is not easy for anyone. It is emotional, but it is clear from the Body Worn Camera footage, SWHHS and officers were attempting to remove the children as gently and as calmly as possible. However, Halvorson escalated the situation and made an already stressful event much worse than it needed to be by acting irate and assaulting a police officer in front of her four small children. As much as Halvorson would like to villainize law enforcement and child protection it is her behaviors on January 26, 2023 that were inexcusable and against the law."

Halvorson will be sentenced on April 22, 2024, at the Redwood County Courthouse.