



St. Paul Man Charged with DUI Again, Already Has 5 Driving Convictions

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ST. PAUL – A 38-year-old St. Paul man is facing four charges for driving under the influence of methamphetamine with his 12-year-old son in the vehicle.



Michael John Leibel

Michael John Leibel was arrested back in September for DUI. Police received a tip that Leibel was buying drugs at a residence in Bayport. Police followed him and observed him make two turns without signaling.

When police pulled him over, they found drugs, a scale and syringes.

"Here you have a situation where he has meth, he has a child in the car and it's only a gross misdemeanor. It's the possession of the meth that's a felony," says Doug Johnson, Washington County Attorney.

Leibel has had five additional drug or alcohol-related driving convictions.

"It's a drug that makes people put their desire for the drug ahead of their needs of their children," says Johnson. Johnson says the laws aren't tough enough to keep repeat offenders off the roads and keep them from endangering others.

Prosecutors say more and more children are becoming the unintended victims of drug use, and some are frustrated because taxpayers aren't willing to give more for additional jail space.

Leibel's next court appearance is April 22.

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