



Office of the District Attorney

**P. David Soares**

6 Lodge Street

Albany, New York 12207

(518) 487-5460

(518) 487-5093 FAX

**CONTACT:** CECILIA LOGUE, (518) 275-4710

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## Impaired Driver Sentenced to Prison for Leandra's Law



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that SEAN COOPER, 30, of Rensselaer, was sentenced to 1 to 3 years in State Prison before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court this morning after previously pleading guilty to charges of operating a vehicle while impaired by drugs with an 11 year old passenger in the vehicle.

On February 11, 2013, as jury selection for trial was slated to commence, COOPER pleaded guilty to the full indictment that alleged he operated a 1999 BMW on July 12, 2011 in the Village of Menands while under the influence of drugs with a minor in the vehicle. COOPER also had a suspended license and was in possession of a hypodermic needle.

Police responded to a call about a domestic dispute that had occurred in a Stewarts Shop, and arrived to find COOPER behind the wheel at a gas station across the street. COOPER exhibited signs of impairment and admitted to the officers that his license was suspended. New York State

Police also responded and Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) determined COOPER to be impaired.

COOPER pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, a Class E Felony, (1) Count of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a Class A Misdemeanor, (1) Count of Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, a Misdemeanor, and (1) Count of Possessing a Hypodermic Instrument, a Class A Misdemeanor.

COOPER was additionally sentenced to pay court fines, license revocation for 1 year as well as the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device for 3 years upon release from custody.

“I applaud the work of the Menands Police Department on this case and commend their on-going aggressive pursuit of impaired drivers,” commented DA David Soares. “I also thank the New York State Police and their Drug Recognition Experts who responded. I encourage all departments to certify experts and train personnel to detect drug impaired drivers.”

Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief Mary Tanner-Richter prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Logue.

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