

# *News Release*

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## **Getaway driver in East Cooper Family Pharmacy Robbery and Unlawful Conduct Towards a Child Sentenced to 13 years**

**Charleston, S.C.** – Defendant Sonja Tompkins pled guilty to Accessory Before the Fact to Armed Robbery and Accessory After the Fact to Armed Robbery shortly after her trial began yesterday. Circuit Court Judge Kristi Harrington sentenced Sonja Tompkins to thirteen (13) years in SCDC to run concurrent on both charges. The case was prosecuted by Assistant Solicitors Charles Condon, Jr., and Whit Sowards.

Defendant Sonja Tompkins along with her boyfriend Co-defendant Arturo Mendones committed the armed robbery of the East Cooper Pharmacy. Defendant Tompkins, a regular customer of the pharmacy, drew out the blueprint for the inside of the pharmacy, obtained a b-b gun, and arranged the use of a getaway car. On Wednesday, March 25, 2013, at around 9 am, Defendant Tompkins dropped her boyfriend Art Mendones off at the McDonald's parking lot where she lay in wait. The Codefendant Mendones crossed Highway 17 and robbed the two pharmacist at gunpoint. After the robbery, she picked him up across the street from the pharmacy in front of the Nason Medical Center. Defendant Tompkins then drove him back to her home in Mount Pleasant. They stole approximately one thousand Oxycodone (1000) pills and two hundred (200) Dilaudid pills. Defendant Sonja Tompkins then sold the pills for thousands of dollars in profit. Her child, under the age of 2, tested positive for these drugs along with many others. Tompkins also pled guilty to unlawful conduct towards a child and received a 10 year concurrent sentence for that charge.

Condon stated "Sonja Tompkins was held accountable for her actions and punished accordingly." The Codefendant, Arturo Mendones, who led the Solicitor's Office to multiple witnesses and testified at the trial, pled guilty to armed robbery and will be sentenced at a later date.

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