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(S.D.)-Defense: SD Man Accused Of Arson Was Insane



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/21/2013 03:10 PM

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) - A Box Elder man accused of trying to burn down his mobile home while his live-in girlfriend and another man were inside was insane at the time.

That's according to a psychological evaluation of Joseph Hodges commissioned by his defense team. Hodges is charged with arson and reckless burning.

Kern also denied a request to lower Hodge's bond from \$100,000. Hodges faces up to 35 years in prison if convicted.

Pennington County deputy state's attorney Tracey Decker has requested that the state do its own evaluation, which Seventh Circuit Judge Janine Kern has agreed to.