

REDACTED

ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT  
OF THE SUPERIOR COURT IN  
MOHAVE COUNTY  
(928) 753-0741  
FAX (928) 718-5508

FILED  
TIME                      M  
MAR 11 2015  
BY:                      DEPUTY  
VIRLYNN YINNELL  
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT

**IMPORTANT NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

You are advised that the criminal history information contained in this pre-sentence report is subject to (1) ARS 13-4425, (2) the Arizona Plan for Security and Privacy of Criminal History Record Information, (3) U.S. Department of Justice Regulation 28CFR20, and (4) Rule 123 of the Arizona Supreme Court. This information is to be used only for matters pertaining to the defendant's criminal case for which the pre-sentence report was prepared.

Additionally, some information contained in this report relative to diagnosis, treatment and health history may be subject to restrictions on dissemination as imposed by law or rule.

Pre-Sentence Investigation Report On:

**CASSLYN MAE WELCH**  
AKA Cassie Choat  
AKA Casslyn Mae Choate

CR-2010-0821  
CR-2010-0836

The attached Pre-Sentence Investigation Report was ready February 20, 2015

DEFENSE COUNSEL: Stephen R. Glazer,  
Private Attorney

PROSECUTOR: Victoria Stazio,  
Deputy County Attorney

JUDGE: Honorable Steven F. Conn, Division III

SENTENCING DATE: March 11, 2015

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Alan Chamberlain  
Deputy Probation Officer II



S8015CR201000821

Defendant: CASSLYN MAE WELCH  
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**CR-2010-0821**

Count 1: Escape, a Class 6 Felony and non-dangerous offense;  
 Count 4: Armed Robbery, a Class 2 Felony; and,  
 Count 6: Armed Robbery, a Class 2 Felony, both Dangerous  
 Offenses.

Defendant admits to: Aggravating Factors pursuant to  
 13-701(D)(1) and 13-701 (D)(4).

**CR-2010-0836**

All Counts to be dismissed.

<u>OFFENSE DATE:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CR-2010-0821:</b> Count 1: July 30, 2010;</li> <li>• <b>CR-2010-0821:</b> Counts 4 and 6: Between July 30 and 31, 2010.</li> </ul>																
<u>PENALTY:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prison:            Count 1: 2.5 years prison;            Count 4: 20 years prison; and,            Count 5: 20 years prison;</li> <li>• Sentences for each count shall run concurrent;</li> <li>• Sentence in <b>CR-2010-0821</b> shall run concurrent to United States District Court District of New Mexico Case # 2010-2734JH, as contemplated by 18 U.S.C.A. 3584, as stipulated by the parties and ordered by the Court.</li> <li>• Defendant shall receive credit for time served in this case if defendant is in federal custody;</li> <li>• All other terms at the Judge's discretion;</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">or  <b>PRISON RANGE</b>          for a Class 6 Felony</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>.33</td> <td>.5</td> <td>1</td> <td>1.5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>substan mit</td> <td>mitigated</td> <td>presumptive</td> <td>aggravated</td> <td>substan agg</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRISON RANGE</b>          for a Class 2 Felony and          a Dangerous Offense</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>10.5</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>substan mit</td> <td>mitigated</td> <td>substan agg</td> </tr> </table>	.33	.5	1	1.5	2	substan mit	mitigated	presumptive	aggravated	substan agg	7	10.5	21	substan mit	mitigated	substan agg
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substan mit	mitigated	presumptive	aggravated	substan agg													
7	10.5	21															
substan mit	mitigated	substan agg															
<u>PLEA AGREEMENT:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On April 12, 2011 the defendant entered into a Stipulated Guilty Plea pleading guilty to: In <b>CR-2010-0821:</b> Count 1: Escape, a Class 6 Felony; and Counts 4 and 5: Both Armed</li> </ul>																

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	<p>Robbery, Class 2 Felonies and both dangerous offenses. The defendant also admits to Aggravating Factors pursuant to 13-701(D)(1) and 13-701 (D)(4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dismissed: In <b>CR-2010-0836</b>: All counts; and in <b>CR-2010-0821</b>: Counts 2,3,6 and 7.</li></ul>
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CODEFENDANTS / DISPOSITION / RESTITUTION:

In CR-2010-0820, Tracy Alan Province was sentenced to 2.25 years prison for Count 1: Escape in the Second Degree, a Class 5 Felony, a non-dangerous but repetitive offense with one dangerous historical prior conviction. This sentence was to begin upon completion of his previously imposed Pima County sentencing in CR-36706. He was given no credit for jail time served prior to sentencing

Province was also sentenced to 15.75 years for Count 2: Kidnapping, a Dangerous Class 2 Felony with one dangerous historical prior conviction to begin upon completion of the 2.25 years sentenced imposed in Count 1 and concurrently with Counts 4 and 6.

In Count 3: Kidnapping, a Class 2 Dangerous Felony with one dangerous historical prior conviction, Province was sentenced to 15.75 years prison to begin upon completion of Counts 2 and 4 and concurrently to Counts 3, 5 and 7 but consecutively to the 15.75 years sentences imposed in Counts 2 and 4.

In Count 4: Armed Robbery, a Class 2 Dangerous Felony with one dangerous historical prior conviction, Province was also sentenced to 15.75 years prison to be served upon completion of Count 1 and concurrently with Counts 2 and 6.

In Count 5: Armed Robbery, a Class 2 Dangerous Felony with one dangerous historical prior conviction, Province was also sentenced to 15.75 years prison to begin on completion of Counts 2 and 4 and concurrently to Counts 3, 5 and 7.

In Count 6: Aggravated Assault, a Class 3 Dangerous Felony with one dangerous historical prior conviction, Province was sentenced to 11.25 years prison to be served consecutively to Count 1 and concurrently to Counts 2 and 4.

In Count 7: Aggravated Assault, a Class 3 Dangerous Felony with one dangerous historical prior conviction, Province was sentenced also to 11.25 years prison with the same stipulations as for Count 6.

In Count 8: Misconduct Involving Weapons, and a Class 4 non-dangerous Felony but with one dangerous historical prior felony conviction, Province was sentenced to 4.5 years prison to begin upon completion of sentences in Counts 3 and 5.

Daniel Kelly Renwick and John Charles McCluskey have not been assigned to the Probation Department as of the filing of this report.

2015

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## PRE-SENTENCE REPORT – PART ONE

### PRESENT OFFENSE SUMMARY:

The following is from Mohave County Sheriff Department's DR#2010-029646, 2010-027072 and 2010-027133 and Flagstaff Arizona Police Department's #P10-14325.

On July 31, 2010 Mohave County Sheriff's Detective McNally responded to the Arizona State Prison in Golden Valley reference a prison escape that happened the previous day in which three inmates, Tracy Alan Province (43), housed in building #2 and John Charles McCluskey (45) and Daniel Kelly Renwick (37) housed in building #1, had escaped. It was later determined that Casslyn Mae Welch (44), McCluskey's cousin, had been at the prison the night of the escape and asked for directions to I-40 as confirmed by video images.

Tracks were found indicating McCluskey and Renwick had gone to an outside yard area behind building #2. From there three sets of footprints were found leading to a fenced area. The tracks then led to a point in the southwest corner of the fenced area where the razor wire and the chain link outer fence were cut. A dog leash had been used to hold the cut razor wire away from the opening cut in the outer chain link and two barbwire fences had also been cut. The footprints then led away from the prison in the direction of the electrical generating station. Department of Corrections dogs were used and tracked the inmates to I-40 where the dogs lost the scent.

During that escape, a kidnapping of two truck drivers occurred at exit 44, the junction of Shinarump Road and I-40. Escapee Daniel Renwick was believed to have left the area in the vehicle driven to the prison by Welch.

On July 31, 2010 about 5:02 am, Flagstaff Arizona Police responded to the Little America truck stop, 2515 E Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, reference a kidnapping. The two victims, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (ages unknown) were contacted there. Their kidnappers were later identified as escapees Tracy Providence and John McCluskey and their accomplice as Casslyn Welch.

▶ the owner/operator of the semi-truck involved, reported that both Providence and McCluskey were armed with handguns and Welch had a duffel bag with more handguns in it. McCluskey, who drove the truck, had a cut on his left hand and right arm. \_\_\_\_\_ said he had pulled over on I-40, milepost 44, near Kingman to change drivers and had not seen any other vehicles in the area. While \_\_\_\_\_ was moving into the sleeper of the semi, the passenger door opened and a gun was pointed at them with someone stating, "Nobody move." At first the two truckers thought it was a highway patrol officer; however, \_\_\_\_\_ looked over the seat and saw a white male wearing an orange prison jumpsuit pointing a gun at them. This man entered the vehicle, followed by another white male with a gun and a female wearing camouflage. The male said that they had just escaped from prison and they were in for murder but did not want to kill anyone else as long as the truckers cooperated.

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and were pushed to the back of the cab while Province pointed a gun at them. McCluskey got into the driver's seat and Welch got into the passenger seat. McCluskey started driving the truck eastbound on I-40 while McCluskey, Welch and Province talked about what they were going to do. In Flagstaff, McCluskey pulled off at exit 185 at the Little America truck stop. and were told that today was their lucky day, that Welch did not want to kill them. Providence and McCluskey then changed into the driver's extra clothes and threw their prison clothing out of the truck. Both and were told to lay face down in the back of the truck and not watch them leave, or they would kill them. The three suspects then took the victims' cell phones and CB microphone and left the two truckers and the semi-tractor. After about fifteen minutes, the two victims drove their semi to the fuel pumps and called 911.

On August 21, 2010 the US Marshals Service transported Tracy Province to the Kingman Airport where Mohave County Sheriff's Detective Matthews interviewed him at 9:29 am. Providence explained he had been housed at the prison in Yucca for about six months after having been transferred from the Buckeye, Arizona prison. Province said he was in the maximum-security prison as he had two life sentences and had been in prison about 21 years.

Province stated he would not implicate anyone else but would state what he did. He said he had participated in planning the prison escape for a couple of weeks and in training the inmate-dog program for about five months. He had been allowed into the back yard to take the dog out. The yard had a 10-12 foot fence but no cameras. Province said he waited for the perimeter truck to go by, advising that if an inmate was sitting on the bench the guards assumed they were waiting on their dog. Province then climbed over a three-string barbwire fence. All three inmates cut themselves on the fence. The wire cutters were already inside the fence waiting for them and Province used them to cut a small section at the bottom of the fence.

Things did not go as planned as they could not find the escape vehicle in which there was supposed to be guns, money and clothes waiting for them. Province continued running through the desert looking for the vehicle, then retraced his steps and found it was gone. He continued to stay in the bushes and followed a dirt road through the desert.

Asked if anyone in the prison had assisted in the escape, Province stated, "No, the only people who knew about it were the people who went." He said they remained in the desert for four to five hours and then headed towards the interstate.

When they were at a truck stop rest area they came on a semi-truck with the doors unlocked. Only one driver spoke English. They put a gun in the victim's face and told the two truckers, and to get into the sleeper. Province stated at one point he did do a countdown on as he did not move when instructed. Province said he then got into the sleeper with them and never tied them up but just told them to sit on the bed.

Province stated that when the semi stopped in Flagstaff someone in his group called someone else for a ride. The three suspects waited about 45 minutes before the ride showed up. When Province left he told the two truckers to wait about 15 minutes before getting out. Before leaving, Province, Welch and McCluskey took a vote and one person wanted to kill the drivers

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and the other one didn't. It was a two to one vote and the "other" person honored the vote. They also took the truckers' clothes but they were too big. When they got near Mesa, Arizona they got new clothes.

Province stated he did not know how they got another vehicle. They then drove all night through the back roads of Arizona and then to New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. Then they turned around for some unknown reason as the plan fell through.

Province stated after the incident in New Mexico (ie, the murder of a retired couple there by John McCluskey), he separated from McCluskey and Welch. He was very upset and told them he was not in it for that. Province wanted to go to Yellowstone, shoot a gram of heroin and be "bear food". He wanted to overdose and let the bears eat him. But then "divine intervention" happened. He changed his plans and wanted to leave Yellowstone, as it was too cold, and then tried to hitchhike to Indiana to see his family.

When arrested on August 20, 2010, in St. John's, Arizona Province had a 9 mm hand gun which he said he found in a motel room in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Having had a 40 caliber semi-automatic when he left Arizona, Province stated he did point the gun at someone but never laid a hand on them.

Province said that in Albuquerque the three were unable to get a room without ID but one of their party convinced a manager to rent them a room. Province told the others not to leave their guns out in the open, so he put his under a pillow. When they turned the television on it was all about them. They panicked, took off and left the gun behind.

Province explained he was facing the death penalty in New Mexico, so the charges here don't really matter to him. He said he would state what he did, but not implicate what other people did. Province said the only thing he did in Arizona was take the truck and put the drivers in the sleeper area. He did not commit any other crimes in Arizona.

Asked about being nervous, Province said he was nervous the entire time he was in the desert. He doesn't know why anyone would want to escape from prison because all you do is look over your shoulder the entire time.

On August 19, 2010 Welch and McCluskey were taken into custody at a campground near the Sunrise Ski Resort by officers of the Apache County Arizona Sheriff's Office, the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the US Forrest Service.

Casslyn Mae Welch was booked into the Mohave County Jail on February 9, 2015 from federal custody. The jail reports no prior incarceration for the defendant, but notes Welch was photographed and fingerprinted there on August 20, 2010.

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**DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT:**

Ms. Welch writes:

"I'm sorry for the horrible tragedy that was inflicted upon everyone involved. I will carry the guilt and shame for the rest of my life. I'll never be able to make it right no matter how many times I say I'm sorry." (sic)

**VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT:**

The victims are identified as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

On January 21, 2011 Deputy Probation Officer Karen Wright spoke with \_\_\_\_\_ who stated he is not requesting any restitution and did not wish to make a statement in reference to this case.

On January 21, 2011 Officer Wright also attempted to telephone \_\_\_\_\_, but his telephone was not in service. A letter requesting restitution information and a statement was mailed to him on January 24, 2011 which however resulted in no response and no restitution requested.

**RISK/NEED ASSESSMENT:**

*Based on the Offender Screening Tool (OST), the following is an assessment of the defendant's risk to reoffend and criminogenic needs. There are 10 categories, or domains, assessed in the OST. Domains that do not contribute to the defendant's overall risk to reoffend, or represent a criminogenic need area for the defendant do not require intervention. Domains that contribute to the defendant's overall risk to reoffend and criminogenic needs must be addressed when developing community supervision strategies. The OST is a standardized, statewide, validated tool approved by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).*

**DOMAINS THAT DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL RISK  
TO RE-OFFEND OR CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS**

<b>DOMAIN</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Physical Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welch reports no current medical problems, treatments or needs.</li></ul>
<b>Mental Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She also reports no history of or current mental or emotional problems or treatments.</li><li>• The defendant states she is not presently attending any counseling programs and indicates believing she is not presently in need of any.</li></ul>

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**DOMAINS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL RISK  
 TO RE-OFFEND AND CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS**

DOMAIN	Summary
Residence/ Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welch states she had been residing Arizona for two years at the time of the instant offense.</li> </ul>

**DOMAINS THAT SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL RISK  
 TO RE-OFFEND AND CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS**

DOMAIN	Summary
Vocational/ Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The defendant reports no history of employment, job skills, training or anything about her finances.</li> <li>She has never served in the military.</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting no major disciplinary actions as a student, Welch states she graduated high school and attended Smith Trucking in December 2008 to learn truck driving.</li> <li>She reports having an expired Commercial Driver's License.</li> </ul>
Family and Social Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Casslyn Mae Welch, nee' Casslyn Choat, 48, is a white female born July 21, 1966 in McNary, Arizona.</li> <li>Parents: John Choat (deceased) and Carolyn Choat (70), of Tijeras, New Mexico who raised the defendant who left home before she was sixteen. The defendant describes her childhood as having been "average" but reports she was sexually abused by her father from age six, which resulted in his being prosecuted. The defendant however did not attend counseling as a result of this experience.</li> <li>Having family with a criminal history, the defendant describes present family relationships as being positive.</li> <li>Welch reports no siblings.</li> <li>The defendant has never married nor had any children.</li> </ul>
Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welch reports no history of alcohol use.</li> </ul>
Drug Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>She also reports never having experimented with or used any illegal drugs.</li> </ul>
Attitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Criminal Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welch appears to have been convicted of nine Federal Felonies: two of which appear to be violence related; has been in jail at least one time and sentenced to prison at</li> </ul>

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least one time for charges other than those cited in the instant offense plea.

**OVERALL ASSESSED RISK/NEED LEVEL: 18 Medium-High Risk**  
**Specific Areas of Concern: Attitude and Behavior with borderline Social.**

COLLATERAL INFORMATION:

On February 17, 2015 requests for case officer statement were faxed to Mohave County Sheriff's Officers McNally and Matthews with no reply to date.

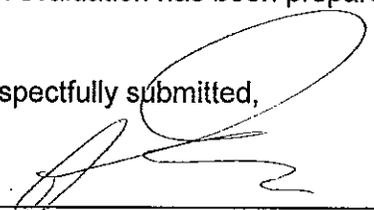
INFORMATION NOT FOR DISCLOSURE:

*Additional identifying information and/or criminal history may be contained in PART TWO of this report and is for disclosure only to the Court, the prosecutor, the defense attorney, and other authorized criminal justice agencies.*

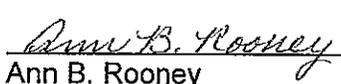
SUMMARY:

Due to the defendant's prison plea, no probation evaluation has been prepared.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Chamberlain,  
Deputy Probation Officer II

APPROVED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann B. Rooney  
Deputy Probation Officer Senior

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