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Crime and Consequences

Lindsay Lohan Sentenced for Probation Violations

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What Happened:

On July 5—the day after the United States celebrated its independence, celebrity Lindsay Lohan may have lost hers for a bit. A judge sentenced the starlet to 90 days in prison for violating probation. Lohan burst into tears when she was sentenced.

Lohan was dealing with the aftermath of two DUI convictions in 2007. In lieu of jail time, the actress was given probation—and a series of strict conditions she'd need to meet in order to stay out of the slammer.

After several suspected violations of her probation, Lohan was ordered to court this May—but she failed to appear in court. She later said her passport had been stolen and she couldn't return from a film festival in France. After showing up for another court date, a judge ordered her to wear an alcohol-detecting ankle bracelet—a bracelet that went off at a party shortly thereafter. Lohan also was ordered to undergo alcohol counseling, but she allegedly didn't attend.

During the sentencing, Lohan was spotted with a profanity written on one of her fingernails, which Lohan later said had nothing to do with the judge or the sentencing. Lohan did send out a series of missives from her Twitter account after she was sentenced, perhaps suggesting the 90-day jail term was “cruel and unusual.” She also referenced a story about a woman in Iran who had been sentenced to death by stoning.

Lohan, who's also supposed to undergo a 90-day rehab program after her sentence is complete, still has not actually gone to jail. She recently hired a new attorney in an effort to try to avoid seeing the inside of a cell.

Talk About It:

While many observers believe Lohan's punishment was a long time in coming—and might, in fact, be the best thing to ever happen to her—others say 90 days in prison is excessive, compared to what you or I would get under similar circumstances. Do you think she's being punished unfairly because of her celebrity? Do you think she actually got off easy because of her fame? Or did the punishment fit the crime?

Do you think Lohan is taking responsibility for her actions? What do you think she should've done differently? Do you think she'll learn from this experience?

Is it hard to own up to your actions when you've done something wrong? Have you ever tried to get out of a punishment you knew you deserved? Did that lead to even more problems later? Have you ever been relieved to fess up to wrongdoing?

What the Bible Says:

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-37).

"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins" (James 4:17).

"May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope is in you" (Ps. 25:21).

"Two things I ask of you, O Lord, do not refuse me before I die; keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread" (Prov. 30:7-8).