

Officer spared criminal record for drunken incident at senior's home

COCHRANE • A rookie RCMP officer will be spared a criminal record after pleading guilty to mischief in connection with a drunken incident at a Cochrane senior's home.

A judge gave Const. Keith Anderson an absolute discharge in Cochrane provincial court Monday, but the officer still faces possible discipline from the RCMP.

Anderson admitted breaking through the front door of a 75-year-old woman's home on Glenhill Drive after a night of drinking with friends in February.

The woman, who was watching TV with her brother, called 911.

Officers found Anderson a short distance away and arrested him.

Anderson, who had been on the force for seven months at the time but was not on duty, was charged with breaking and entering but pleaded guilty instead to the lesser charge of mischief.

Since then, Anderson has paid for repairs to the woman's home, taken counselling and performed several hours of community service.

Anderson was suspended with pay and is now subject to an RCMP code-of-conduct investigation. Discipline could involve being ordered to take counselling, loss of pay, or dismissal.