“I Know” features Tom, a father from Hastings who lost his son to an accidental fentanyl poisoning. [Devin was just 19 when he bought what he believed was a Percocet on Snapchat to help him deal with blackout migraines – the pill turned out to be 100% fentanyl.](https://www.startribune.com/her-son-bought-a-fake-pill-via-snapchat-fentanyl-killed-him-now-hastings-mom-is-on-a-mission/600361332)

In the ad, Tom shares the story of losing his son.

He goes on to discuss the fact that Joe Teirab has cut plea deals with drug dealers, child abusers and violent offenders. He details the plea deal that Teirab cut with Senif Joel Garza, [who was later arrested and convicted of charges related to dealing fentanyl.](https://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/two-charged-after-alleged-fentanyl-deal/article_13a8ea60-63c3-11ee-bd81-3f3c26d11c17.html)

Joe Teirab has made his “tough on crime” prosecutorial record a central focus of his campaign for Minnesota’s Second District. His website reads: [“After his time in the Marine Corps came to an end, Joe served as an Assistant County Attorney where he prosecuted drug crimes, violent crimes, domestic violence, and sexual assault](https://www.joeformn2.com/meet-joe).” In a campaign ad that aired earlier this cycle, Teirab states: “As a federal prosecutor, I put drug traffickers, gang members and a cop killer behind bars right here in Minnesota,” taking full responsibility for his prosecutorial record.

**The ad states:**

“It burns me up when a weak prosecutor like Joe Teirab lets a convicted felon off easy. And he’s back out on the streets dealing this poison. And then the same person gets arrested again for dealing fentanyl.”

**Evidence:**

In this ad, Tom specifically refers to Joe Teirab’s prosecution of Senif Joel Garza.

1. Joe Teirab cut a plea deal with Senif Joel Garza: who had previously been convicted on a criminal felony for his role in a drive-by shooting and has since been convicted for dealing fentanyl. [[1]](#footnote-0) 
   1. After Teirab cut a deal with Garza, Garza was [once again arrested](https://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/two-charged-after-alleged-fentanyl-deal/article_13a8ea60-63c3-11ee-bd81-3f3c26d11c17.html), this time related to a fentanyl deal in Mankato. Garza was convicted of second-degree fentanyl and heroin sales.[[2]](#footnote-1)

Details of additional cases in which Teirab cut plea deals with individuals charged with violent crimes and drug and fentanyl charges can be found below.

1. Teirab cut a plea deal with Edgar Javier Garza: a man accused of domestic violence and brutal assault. [[3]](#footnote-2)
2. Teirab cut a plea deal with Abdelqadir Mahmoud, a man with a long history of making violent threats and assault. After pleading guilty, Mahmoud received no further jail time.[[4]](#footnote-3)
   1. Mahmoud went on to violate his probation in this case and be resentenced to actual time behind bars – but he continued to commit multiple violent offenses in Minnesota. This includes being convicted of charges related to making death threats towards people in a parking lot, attacking another man on a Light Rail station platform, assaulting a correctional facility employee and police officer and attempting to rob a man at a bus stop. **[[5]](#footnote-4),[[6]](#footnote-5),[[7]](#footnote-6),[[8]](#footnote-7)**
3. Teirab cut a plea deal with Samuel Charles Skelton II: a methamphetamine dealer who had previously been convicted for domestic assault, violating a harassment restraining order and threatening a woman. [[9]](#footnote-8)
4. Teirab cut a plea deal with Lloyd Erin Stevens: a drug dealer who had a string of felonies related to substances, firearms and violence. [[10]](#footnote-9)
5. Teirab struck a plea deal with Gregory Jones, a man charged with fentanyl distribution and firearms offenses, reducing his sentence.[[11]](#footnote-10)[[12]](#footnote-11)

**The ad states that:**

“Teirab even let child abusers off easy – with little or no jail time.”

**Evidence:**

Teirab was listed as a prosecutor on several cases where child abusers got little to no jail time.

1. **In 2018, Teirab prosecuted a case against Curtis John Tauber, who was charged with malicious punishment of a child and intentional domestic assault. Teirab cut a plea deal with him, allowing him to evade executed jail time.[[13]](#footnote-12)**
2. In a case from 2019, a woman with prior domestic assault convictions was accused of kicking her four-year-old child to the ground. Teirab allowed her to plead guilty to only one gross misdemeanor charge for assaulting her boyfriend, and in return, several more serious charges against her were dropped and she received no further jail time.[[14]](#footnote-13)
3. Teirab struck another plea deal in a 2018 case against a woman who was accused of repeatedly beating her young children with a belt with police observing several marks on her three-year-old child’s body. The woman was allowed to plead guilty to just two misdemeanor charges and didn’t receive executed jail time.[[15]](#footnote-14)
4. Teirab was involved in the prosecution of a case against Jesse Alan Moody, who was charged with felony sexual conduct with a nine-year-old. The case went to trial and Teirab lost the case when Moody was acquitted by a jury.[[16]](#footnote-15)

1. [Case No. 0:2020cr00194, USA v. Garza et al - Senif Joel Garza](https://www.pacermonitor.com/public/case/36622263/USA_v_Garza_et_al) [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. [Two charged after alleged fentanyl deal](https://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/two-charged-after-alleged-fentanyl-deal/article_13a8ea60-63c3-11ee-bd81-3f3c26d11c17.html)  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Case No. 52-CR-18-291, State of Minnesota vs Edgar Javier Garza, Fifth Judicial District, Nicollet County, Doc filed 12/11/2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Case No. 52-CR-19-131, State of Minnesota vs ABDELQADIR MAHMOUD, Fifth Judicial District, Nicollet County [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Case No. 52-CR-20-50, State of Minnesota vs ABDELQADIR MAHMOUD, Fifth Judicial District, Nicollet County [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. Case No. 27-CR-21-6505, State of Minnesota vs ABDELQADIR HASSAN MOHOUD, Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. Case No. 27-CR-21-20729, State of Minnesota vs ABDELQADIR HASSAN MOHOUD, Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. Case No. 27-CR-22-5199, State of Minnesota vs ABDELQADIR HASSAN MOHOUD, Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. Case No. 0:2020cr00084 USA v. Skelton - Samuel Charles Skelton II [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. [Iron Range man faces federal drug charge](https://www.mesabitribune.com/news/iron-range-man-faces-federal-drug-charge/article_4f914afe-813f-11eb-98bf-bf7615731e3f.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
11. U.S. District Court of Minnesota, USA v. Jones, Pacer, Case No. 0:21cr236, filed 11/3/2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
12. U.S. District Court of Minnesota, USA v. Jones, Pacer, Case No. 0:21cr236, filed 6/14/2023 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
13. Case No. 52-CR-18-474, State of Minnesota vs. Curtis John Tauber, Fifth Judicial District, Nicollet County, MN [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
14. Case No. 52-CR-19-48, State of Minnesota vs Ann Nicole Neylon, Fifth Judicial District, Nicollet County [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
15. Case No. 52-CR-18-241, State of Minnesota vs Ebony Rain Mason, Fifth Judicial District, Nicollet County [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
16. Case No. 52-CR-19-74, State of Minnesota vs Jesse Alan Moody, Fifth Judicial District, Nicollet County [↑](#footnote-ref-15)