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Addict jailed for gun grab

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ANGEL LAU

A heroin addict who grabbed at a policeman's revolver to shoot himself was yesterday jailed for six months.

District Court Judge Donald Christie ensured that Lam Wai-hung's sentence would not affect treatment for his addiction.

Any sentence longer than nine months would have halted his treatment at a drug addiction centre.

Lam, 23, has been receiving treatment at Hei Ling Chau Correctional Institution since November 30.

"It's desirable not to interfere with the defendant's treatment," the judge said.

Lam was at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for treatment of withdrawal symptoms on November 5 after an arrest for drug offences.

While waiting with a policeman, Lam partially succeeded in pulling the revolver from the officer's holster.

The defendant told the court that he wanted to take the pistol to shoot himself.

Lam was convicted of attempted theft after pleading not guilty.

He unsuccessfully contested whether the snatching constituted an attempted theft because he did not intend to deprive the officer of his revolver permanently.

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