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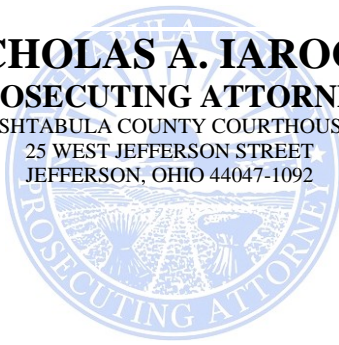
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June 28, 2018

PLEA OF GUILTY AND SENTENCE INVOLVING DRUG OVERDOSE

On May 17, 2018, after a three day jury trial before Judge Marianne Sezon in Case No. 2016 CR 243, **Karen M. Tackett** was found guilty of **Illegal Assembly or Possession of Chemicals for the Manufacture of Drugs**, a third degree felony, **Trafficking in Heroin**, a fifth degree felony, **Possession of Heroin**, a fifth degree felony, **Aggravated Possession of Drugs**, a fifth degree felony, and **Possessing Criminal Tools**, a fifth degree felony.

On May 18, 2018, Ms. Tackett pleaded guilty before Judge Sezon in Case No. 2017 CR 496 to one count of **Escape**, a third degree felony, and in Case No. 2017 CR 541 to one count of **Vandalism**, a fifth degree felony.

On June 14, 2018, Ms. Tackett pleaded guilty before Judge Thomas E. Harris in Case No. 2017 CR 497 **Involuntary Manslaughter**, a first degree felony, and **Trafficking in Heroin**, a third degree felony (Case No. 2017 CR 497).

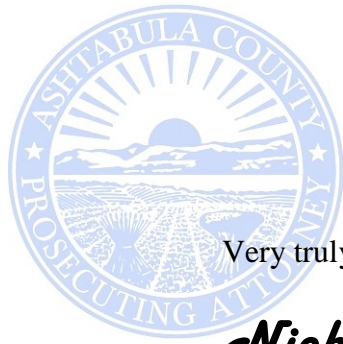
The charges in Case No. 2017 CR 497 stem from the drug overdose death of Kelly Elizabeth Nance on September 29, 2017 in Cuyahoga County. Ms. Nance died as a result of complications of intoxication by cyclopropyl fentanyl. On September 24, 2018, Ms. Tackett sold Ms. Nance from Tackett's Ashtabula residence drugs thought to be heroin. Ms. Nance used the drugs purchased from Tackett, and overdosed on September 25, 2018. A search warrant of Ms. Tackett's residence, the location of the sale of drugs to Ms. Nance, was obtained and executed by the Ashtabula Police Department on September 28, 2017. Among the drugs and other evidence found in Ms. Tackett's residence as a result of the search warrant was cyclopropyl fentanyl, the same drug that caused Ms. Nance's death.

As part of a global plea agreement in the cases noted above, Ms. Tackett was sentenced on June 18 and 25, 2018 to a total nine years in prison on all the charges.

This plea and sentence serves to assist the continued efforts of all of law enforcement in its fight against the opiate epidemic, and to attempt to prevent additional overdose deaths from occurring in Ashtabula County. I would like to extend our sincerest condolences to the family of Kelly Nance, and appreciation to the Ashtabula Police Department, Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department, the Ashtabula County Heroin Overdose Task Force, and my assistant prosecutor Bret Hartup for their dedicated and commendable work in investigating and prosecuting these cases.

Thank you.

Press Release
June 28, 2018



Very truly yours,

Nicholas A. Iarocci

NICHOLAS A. IAROCCI
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY