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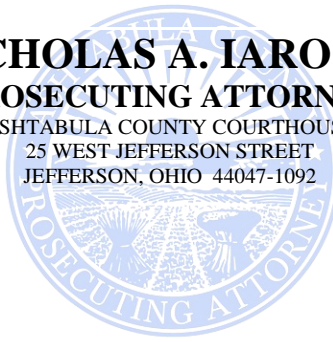
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June 28, 2018

PLEA OF GUILTY AND SENTENCE INVOLVING DRUG OVERDOSE

On May 24, 2018 and as part of a global plea agreement, **Jamie Lynn Clay** entered pleas of guilty to the following three counts:

1. **Involuntary Manslaughter**, a first degree felony (Case No. 2017 CR 502);
2. **Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs**, a third degree felony (Case No. 2018 CR 16);
and
3. **Trafficking in Heroin**, a fifth degree felony (Case No. 2018 CR 16).

The Involuntary Manslaughter conviction stems from the drug overdose death of Melissa M. Wheeler on February 10, 2017 in Ashtabula City. It is alleged that John Nosse, who was convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter involving Ms. Wheeler's death and sentenced to a period of seven years in prison as part of a plea agreement, sold Heroin which was mixed with Fentanyl to Ms. Wheeler on the night of February 9, 2017. These same drugs were used by Ms. Wheeler immediately thereafter which resulted in her overdose death. Toxicology results evidenced a lethal amount of Fentanyl in Ms. Wheeler's blood at the time of her death, and the Ashtabula County Coroner ruled the cause of death as a drug overdose due to the combined effects of Fentanyl and Methamphetamine and classified the death as a homicide. Ms. Clay was the supplier to Mr. Nosse of the same drugs sold by him to Ms. Wheeler which resulted in her death.

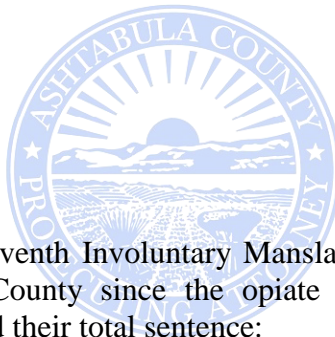
During the overdose death investigation, law enforcement authorities discovered that Ms. Clay had been a major distributor of Heroin in Ashtabula City by supplying approximately 100 grams of Heroin every week during a one-to-two day period each week for approximately nine months.

The charges of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs and Trafficking in Heroin involve a covert drug investigation by the Trumbull Ashtabula Group whereby Ms. Clay sold 0.26 gram of Heroin to an undercover informant on October 31, 2016 and 4.93 grams of Methamphetamine to an undercover informant on February 1, 2017.

As part of the plea agreement, the remaining charges in both indictments were dismissed by the State of Ohio and the parties agreed that each would argue the appropriate sentence to Ashtabula County Common Pleas Court Judge Gary L. Yost. The State of Ohio argued for a nine-year prison sentence, and the defense argued for a community control or probation sanction.

On June 27, 2018, Judge Yost sentenced Ms. Clay to a total prison term of six years.

Press Release
June 28, 2018



This case represents the seventh Involuntary Manslaughter or Corrupting Another with Drugs conviction in Ashtabula County since the opiate epidemic started. The following represent the persons convicted and their total sentence:

Audrey M. McConkey, 2016 CR 159 (8 years prison)
Shawwna N. Spurlock, 2016 CR 210 (4 years prison)
Marisa A. Leffel, 2017 CR 162 (10 years prison)
Jamie L. Clay, 2017 CR 205 (6 years prison)
John N. Nosse III, 2017 CR 501 (7 years prison)
Victor G. Casbohm, 2017 CR 470 (4 years prison)
Karen M. Tackett, 2018 CR 229 (9 years prison)

I would like to extend our sincerest condolences to the family of Melissa M. Wheeler, and appreciation to the Ashtabula Police Department, the Trumbull Ashtabula Group, and the Ashtabula County Heroin Overdose Task Force for their dedicated and commendable work in investigating this case.

Very truly yours,

Nicholas A. Iarocci

NICHOLAS A. IAROCCI
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY