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County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Convicted: Matthew Evans
LKA: 9 Woolston Way, Washington, New Jersey 07882
Date of Birth: August 23, 1978

On January 15, 2019, a Warren County Jury convicted Matthew Evans of Strict Liability for Drug Induced Death contrary to N.J.S.A. 2C:35:-9a, a crime of the First Degree; One count of Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substance in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(5), a crime of the Third Degree; One count of Possession with the intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous contrary to N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(5), a crime of the Third Degree; and Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10(a)(1), a crime of the Third Degree.

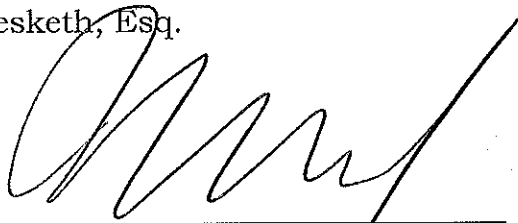
The Charges stem from an incident that occurred on February 2, 2018, where Washington Township Police Department responded to a residence located on the 20 block of Green Street, Washington, New Jersey, to investigate a report of an unresponsive 27 year-old male. Upon arrival, officers from the Washington Township Police Department observed evidence indicative of opioid use near the unresponsive male. Officers administered Naloxone (Narcan) and performed CPR. In addition, the Washington Emergency squad and paramedics from EMS 2 (Hunterdon Medical Center) responded to the scene to provide medical assistance. Efforts to revive the 27 year-old male were unsuccessful and he was pronounced deceased at approximately 4:30 a.m. the same morning.

The controlled dangerous substance observed at the scene was later determined to be fentanyl. Washington Township Police Department and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office commenced a joint investigation to identify the individual who distributed the fentanyl to the victim. After a two and a half month investigation, it was determined that Matthew Evans had traveled to the victim's residence on February 2, 2018 and sold him the fentanyl that caused the fatal overdose.

The first-degree charge carries a maximum term of 20 years in prison, subject to the No Early Release Act (NERA). The third degree charges carry maximum terms of 5 years in prison. However, the defendant falls under the criteria in N.J.S.A. 2C:44-3/43-7 and, as such, is exposed to a sentence of between 20 years in Prison, subject to NERA, and Life imprisonment on the first degree conviction.

As stated earlier, the matter was investigated by the Washington Township Police Department and the Warren County Police Department.

The Honorable Robert B. Reed presided over the trial. Assistant Prosecutor Victor R. Jusino presented the case on behalf of the State and the defendant was represented by attorney, Edward J. Hesketh, Esq.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. McDonald', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael J. McDonald
FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR