

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR

413 Second Street
Belvidere New Jersey 07823
Phone: (908) 475-6275
Fax: (908) 475-6344



RICHARD T. BURKE
County Prosecutor
MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
First Assistant Prosecutor
KIRK T. TRAUGER
Chief of Detectives

County of Warren

Press Release

Arrested: Matthew Evans
9 Woolston Way
Washington, New Jersey 07882
Age: 39

On February 2, 2018, the 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 0430 hours the same morning.

The controlled dangerous substance found 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. Mr. Evans was arrested on Monday, April 16, 2018.

Accordingly, the charges against Evans are as follows:


- One count 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 first-degree charge carries a maximum term of 20 years in prison, subject to the No Early Release Act. The third degree charges carry a maximum term of 5 years in prison.

As stated earlier, the investigation was conducted by the Washington Township Police Department and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office with assistance from Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office.

In a joint statement, Warren County Prosecutor Richard Burke, Washington Township Police Chief Thomas Cicerelle, and Valerie A. Nickerson, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New Jersey Division said, "The arrest of Mr. Evans should send a clear message to those that choose to sell heroin and fentanyl. If you sell drugs to someone and they die as a result of taking those drugs, you can and will be charged with their death. Let's hope they get the message."

Please be advised that charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent of all charges unless and until proven guilty.



RICHARD T. BURKE
PROSECUTOR