



Father and Son Guilty of Buying and Selling Stolen Items at Traders World

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yesterday, Charles Cantrell, 73, and Randall Cantrell, 52, both of Fairborn, Ohio, were found guilty by a Warren County jury of six counts of receiving stolen property. Charles Cantrell was convicted of two counts and Randall Cantrell was convicted of four counts.

The father and son duo were vendors at Traders World in Monroe, Ohio, and were selling items they thought were stolen from local Kroger stores. In early 2015, Kroger contacted the Warren County Sheriff's Office to report a significant rise in thefts. The sheriff's office began to investigate by sending undercover officers to Traders World acting as though they had health and beauty products and household products, specifically Tide Pods, for sale at a very low price. The undercover officers made it clear to the vendors that the items were stolen by using terminology such as "been taken off the truck before they reached the store" and "truck load of hot (expletive)." Charles and Randall Cantrell agreed to purchase merchandise on four occasions from the undercover officers.

After being found guilty, Warren County Common Pleas Judge Donald Oda revoked both of the Cantrells' bonds. They will be held in jail until they are sentenced on March 15, 2016.

"Theft and resale of stolen items costs retailers billions of dollars every year, resulting in higher prices for consumers," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell. He also urged those who frequent flea markets to give thought to the types of items they are purchasing.

"If you can get healthcare, cleaning, or beauty products at a flea market at less than half the cost of what large retailers like Kroger are able to get through their buying power and volume discounts, that should tell you something about the source of those products," said Fornshell.

Fornshell praised the efforts of Sergeant Brian Hounshell and Detectives Chris Wong and Brandi Carter of the Warren County Sheriff's Office, Assistant Prosecutor Teresa Hiett, and Legal Assistant Brenda Berry for the successful investigation and prosecution of this case.



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