



Woman Sentenced for Role in Baby Formula Theft Ring

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Clermont County woman has been convicted and sentenced for her role in an organized retail theft ring involving stolen baby formula. Thuy Thu Do, 35, of Batavia, pled guilty to five counts of receiving stolen property, felonies of the 5th degree; possession of criminal tools, a felony of the fifth degree; and one count of receiving stolen property, a misdemeanor of the 1st degree. Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Don Oda sentenced Do to 30 days in jail and restitution in the amount of \$14,025. Do also forfeited her vehicle, with the value of it applied toward restitution.

Do's conviction was made possible through a public-private partnership between law enforcement and The Kroger Company investigating organized retail crime.

From August 24, 2015 through October 20, 2015, the Lebanon and Monroe Police Departments conducted an investigation into Do after learning that she was purchasing large amounts of stolen baby formula and shipping the product to Vietnam. Do's contacts in Vietnam would then sell the product and transmit the proceeds back to Do. On six different occasions, Do set up buys for stolen baby formula with undercover law enforcement officers. The Kroger Company provided the baby formula for use in the investigation, which the undercover officers then represented to Do as having been stolen. During these transactions, Do bought \$14,025 worth of baby formula from the undercover officers for approximately one-quarter of the retail value.

Ohio law permits a person to be charged with receiving stolen property when as part of an undercover operation, law enforcement represents items as stolen and the person knowingly takes possession of them.

“Organized retail crime costs retailers billions of dollars each year, particularly with high dollar items such as baby formula, over-the-counter medications, and health and beauty products,” said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell. “Typically, these items then find their way into black markets overseas, or locally onto tables in flea markets. Unfortunately, this ‘shrinkage’, as it is referred to in the retail industry, costs American consumers billions of dollars each year through higher prices at the checkout counter,” Fornshell said.

Fornshell commended representatives of The Kroger Company, Detective John Wetzel of the Lebanon Police Department, Detective Greg Myers of the Monroe Police Department, the Warren County Drug Task Force, Assistant Prosecutor Derek Faulkner, and Legal Assistant Kathy Fink for their work on the case.



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