

# Drug Offender Sentenced to Prison

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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A Hamilton man will spend the next eight years in prison for cultivating and trafficking marijuana.

Justin Baker, 32, was found guilty as charged after a 2-day bench trial held in the Warren County Court of Common Pleas. Today, Judge Robert Peeler sentenced Baker to serve eight years in prison, all of which is mandatory time.

In July 2012, a Warren County grand jury returned an 11-count indictment against Baker, including three counts of trafficking in marijuana, two counts of cultivation of marijuana, two counts of possession of marijuana and two counts of possessing criminal tools used to harvest and cultivate marijuana. The grand jury also indicted Baker for engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity.

Baker was one of eight individuals who were members of a large drug trafficking organization. The organization produced high-grade marijuana worth over \$2.9 million. The investigation into Baker's participation in the drug ring originated with a Mason High School teenager, who admitted to his involvement and was sentenced to six months to three years in a juvenile detention facility in October. Officers seized 600 marijuana plants, over \$100,000 in cash, and several hundred grams of harvested marijuana.

Officers from the Warren County Drug Task Force investigated the case, and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Andy Sievers prosecuted the case on behalf of the State.



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