



## **Man Convicted of Involuntary Manslaughter and Corrupting Another with Drugs**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Earlier today, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office obtained its first ever conviction for involuntary manslaughter against a defendant who furnished illegal drugs to a local man that died of a drug overdose. On January 20, 2015, Austin Wells, 26, provided what he believed was heroin to Ryan Patrick. Mr. Patrick injected the drug and immediately overdosed. Toxicology reports later confirmed that Mr. Patrick died of a multi-drug intoxication of fentanyl and cocaine. The jury unanimously convicted Wells of involuntary manslaughter and corrupting another with drugs. Wells will be sentenced in January 2016.

“We are now seeing four times as many people die in Warren County of drug overdoses (almost always heroin or fentanyl) than traffic crashes. It is an epidemic that we simply are not going to tolerate,” said Warren County Prosecutor David Fornshell.

Fornshell added, “Warren County drug dealers are now on notice – when you sell that \$5 cap of heroin or \$10 cap of fentanyl, and someone dies as a result, you will be prosecuted for causing their death. Even if you do not care about human life, is it really worth spending years of your life in prison?”

Fornshell praised the efforts of Assistant Prosecutors Teresa Hiatt and Carrie Heisele, Legal Assistants Brenda Berry and Tonya Colwell, Victim Witness Coordinator Melissa Kennard, Investigators Patty Dratt and Tim Shaffner, and Mason Police Detectives Jeff Wyss and Sean McCormick, Sergeants Jeremy Saylor and Craig Kline, Officers Brian Lahman, Tyler Nethers, Aaron Shaffer, and Theodore Spears, and the Warren County Coroner’s Office for the successful investigation and prosecution of this case.



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