



Man Pleads Guilty for Role in Lebanon Woman's Death

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Late yesterday, Steven Lay, 35, of Lebanon admitted to causing the death of his girlfriend, Shawna Mitchell, by providing fentanyl to her. Lay pled guilty before Warren County Common Pleas Judge Robert Peeler to involuntary manslaughter, a felony of the first degree; corrupting another with drugs, a felony of the second degree; tampering with evidence, a felony of the third degree; and two counts of child endangering, each a misdemeanor of the first degree.

On April 19, 2016, Lay purchased heroin for \$65.00 from a drug dealer in Middletown. He later admitted to Lebanon police detectives that he knew the heroin was fentanyl. Toxicology reports later confirmed the dosage contained only fentanyl. Once home, he and Mitchell went to the bedroom to snort the drugs, leaving the couple's one year old child and Mitchell's ten year old autistic child in the family room. After the two were finished using the drugs, Lay went to the bathroom and passed out. When he awoke, he discovered Mitchell's unconscious body slumped over in the hallway. Lay administered CPR for 10-15 minutes, unsuccessfully. He then disposed of the remaining drugs in the toilet and hid the paraphernalia under the mattress before calling 911. Lebanon Fire Department and Lebanon Police Department personnel arrived but were unable to revive Mitchell. She was declared dead at the scene.

"As we continue to see on a weekly basis in Warren County, whether it's heroin, fentanyl, or the latest synthetic carfentanil, these opiates are a prescription for death," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Lay will be sentenced at a later date following a presentence investigation.



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