



## **Former Springboro Teacher Convicted of Child Endangering, Permitting Drug Abuse**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Amy Panzeca, 40, of Springboro was convicted today of two counts of permitting drug abuse, both felonies of the fifth degree, and one count of endangering children, a misdemeanor of the first degree. Panzeca waived her right to a jury trial, and after one and one-half days of testimony, Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Donald E. Oda II found her guilty of the charges. At the time of the offenses, Panzeca was a teacher with the Springboro Community City Schools.

On May 19, 2017, detectives from the Warren County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant at Panzeca's home at 40 Christman Drive in Springboro, Warren County, Ohio after reports of suspected drug activity at the residence. During the execution of the search warrant of the residence, detectives located LSD and marijuana. Further investigation revealed that on multiple occasions, Panzeca was present and observed her son conduct hand-to-hand drug transactions with Springboro High School students and other people that came to the residence. Panzeca was also aware that her son hosted several parties in the residence where drug use was prevalent. During the course of the investigation, detectives conducted forensic examinations of Panzeca's cell phone and found several text messages where Panzeca and her son discussed drug trafficking and the use of drugs by students at the residence.

Panzeca's son was previously found to be a delinquent child in Warren County Juvenile Court for aggravated trafficking and possession of drugs. Panzeca will be sentenced on February 21, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. She faces a maximum possible sentence of up to 12 months in prison.

"I'm sure that many people in the Springboro community are in disbelief that someone who was previously such a well-respected educator could be guilty of these types of crimes. However, as Judge Oda indicated in handing down his verdict, there was 'overwhelming evidence' of Panzeca's guilt. Her juvenile son engaged in drug trafficking activities directly in front of her. She openly permitted the use of LSD and other drugs by young people when they visited her home. Her own text messages specifically discussing these drug activities ultimately sealed her fate," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell commended the Warren County Drug Task Force, Springboro Police Department Detective Antwaun Scott, Warren County Sheriff's Office Detectives Dan Schweitzer and Chris Wong, Springboro Police Department Officers Josh Emmel and Heath Martin, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Derek B. Faulkner, and Legal Assistant Brenda Berry for their work on the case.



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