



**Nurse Found Guilty and Sentenced to Prison**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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On Wednesday, March 30, 2011, a Warren County jury found Sharon Ward Douglas, a 39-year-old Mason woman, guilty of 13 counts of Illegal Processing of Drug Documents, felonies of the fourth degree, 2 counts of Illegal Processing of Drug Documents, felonies of the fifth degree, and one count of Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a fifth degree felony. The three-day trial culminated with the jury deliberating approximately 9 hours before reaching its verdict late Wednesday evening.

On Tuesday, April 5, 2011, Judge James Flannery sentenced Douglas to serve one year in prison on four of the fourth degree felony counts (consecutively), to serve one year in prison on each of the remaining fourth degree felony counts (concurrent to each other and with all other counts), and to serve 6 months on each of the fifth degree felony counts (concurrent to each other and with all other counts). The sentence orders Douglas to serve four years in prison. Judge Flannery also suspended Douglas' driver's license for one year.

Douglas was a nurse practitioner whose license and prescription authorization had been under suspension by the Ohio Nursing Board for payroll theft from two separate employers. She previously worked at University Hospital and the Johanna Center.

From March 2008 through March 2009, Douglas passed forged prescriptions at Kroger, CVS Pharmacy, and Walgreens Pharmacy in Mason, West Chester, and Colerain. Douglas wrote the prescriptions in her mother's name, the names of two friends, and two fictitious names to perpetuate the scheme. The prescriptions were written on slips obtained from a pad missing from a doctor's office on Reading Road in Cincinnati. An investigation began after a Mason CVS pharmacist questioned the authenticity of a prescription on March 25, 2009, and discovered the prescription filled at that location the day before was fraudulent. The possession charge stemmed from this last prescription that was filled, where the pharmacist confirmed delivery of the drugs to Douglas. During the entire period, Douglas uttered prescriptions for Vicodin and Percocet in amounts ranging from 50 to 90 pills. The investigation did not confirm the motive behind Douglas' actions.

Assistant Prosecutor Travis Vieux prosecuted the case on behalf of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office. Detective Dennis Luken from the Warren County Drug Task Force was the chief investigator in the case. The Mason and West Chester Police Departments assisted in the investigation.



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