

Man Sentenced for Involuntary Manslaughter and Corrupting Another with Drugs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DAVID P. FORNSHELL
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Austin Wells, 26, was sentenced to 10 years in prison today by Warren County Common Pleas Judge Donald Oda.

In December 2015, 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, Wells 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.

"Today's sentence does not bring back Mr. Patrick, but it does send a message to anyone who would consider dealing drugs in Warren County that they will be held responsible for the damage caused by the poison they are sending out into our community," said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

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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