



NEWS RELEASE

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**ANCHORAGE WOMAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE**

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Kevin Feldis announced that Karinn Michelle Gardner, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 120 months in prison for her conviction of distribution of more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. Gardner was also on probation for a previous conviction of conspiracy to distribute narcotics, she was sentenced to one year and one day in prison for violation of her probation. The sentences will run concurrent with one another.

United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline imposed the sentence on Gardner, age 27.

According to Special Assistant United States Attorney Kelly Cavanaugh, who prosecuted the case, Gardner sold 56 grams of crack cocaine to a confidential informant. She also participated in another crack cocaine sale to a confidential informant with her co defendant. In addition to the two crack cocaine sales, Gardner admitted that she and her co-defendant were involved in the possession with intent to distribute of 217 grams of powder cocaine.

Gardner is the mother of four daughters, all under 10 years of age. While imposing sentence, Judge Beistline expressed his concern about the choices she had made in light of her responsibilities as a mother. Judge Biestline repeatedly characterized Gardner and her actions as “selfish,” and expressed that the defendant held her future in her own hands, and was throwing that future away by her own actions.

Mr. Feldis commended the Anchorage Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Gardner. She was prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhood program, a nationwide commitment to reducing firearm and gang crime in America.

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