



Department of Justice

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CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE

DES MOINES, IA – Elfego Ignacio Cid, age 44, of Visalia, California, was sentenced to 262 months in prison on September 8, 2011, for leading a conspiracy from at least 2000 through 2007 to distribute multiple kilograms of methamphetamine in the Southern District of Iowa and elsewhere.

Cid stipulated that his conspiracy delivered over 15 kilograms of methamphetamine to the Des Moines area from California.

According to testimony at sentencing, Cid's network actually delivered hundreds of kilograms of methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine ("ice"), to Des Moines; Fresno, California; Cutler, California; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Salt lake City, Utah; Atlanta, Georgia, and elsewhere. Witnesses testified that Cid provided his couriers with cars that had inner compartments used to secret the methamphetamine during it cross-country delivery.

Cid's sentence was enhanced by United States District Judge Ronald Longstaff because Cid was an organizer and leader of the conspiracy.

"Mr. Cid was a leader of one of the largest methamphetamine distribution networks we've seen in the Southern District," noted U.S. Attorney Nicholas Klinefeldt. "Cid's sentence of more than 20 years in prison should serve as a warning to those tempted to profit from the methamphetamine addictions of others that their cost of doing business will include years in prison, should they head down that path."

Klinefeldt added that Cid's conviction "is a testament to years of hard work and perseverance by federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities." The case was investigated by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Mid Iowa Narcotics Enforcement (MINE) Task Force, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Des Moines Police Department.

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