

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 19, 2008

Government Settles Drug Diversion Case
Against Bergen County Pharmacist for \$100,000

(More)

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NEWARK – The U.S. Attorney’s Office has reached a \$100,000 settlement with a private-practice pharmacist over claims that he committed numerous violations of the Controlled Substances Act (“CSA”), U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced today.

In June 2007, Myron F. Lesh, a licensed pharmacist and owner of Harding Pharmacy and Liquor in Ridgewood, was informed by law enforcement that one of his employees was likely stealing controlled substances from his pharmacy.

That employee, while still nonetheless employed at Harding Pharmacy and Liquor, was arrested by local police in October of 2007, and found to be in possession of controlled substances that he admitted were stolen from Harding Pharmacy and Liquor. The Drug Enforcement Administration then conducted an investigative audit of Harding Pharmacy which revealed numerous violations of CSA laws and regulations.

Lesh cooperated in the investigation and took affirmative steps to ensure future compliance with the laws and regulations concerning accounting for and securing controlled substances. In settlement of the past violations, Lesh agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$100,000.

For the civil investigation, Christie credited Diversion Investigator, Mary Laferriere, of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

The civil case against Lesh was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John Silberman and David Dauenheimer of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Civil Division.

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