

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 13, 2012  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw)

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS  
PHONE: (716) 843-5817  
FAX: (716) 551-3051

## **SEVEN PEOPLE ARRESTED; CHARGED WITH OPERATING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG RING**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that seven people were arrested and charged by criminal complaint with fraudulently obtaining, and then filling, prescriptions for OxyContin. The criminal complaint charges Shantel Williams, 35, Jimmie Lee Simmons, 58, and James Marsh, 71, of Rochester, N.Y., with forging prescriptions to obtain OxyContin. The charge carries a maximum penalty of eight years in prison. In addition, Stacy Clark, 27, Jessica Connelly, 34, Anestacia Wilson, 31, and Bettina Wilson, 32, are charged with illegally possessing OxyContin. That charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Field, who is handling the case, stated that according to the complaint, Shantel Williams worked in the office of a medical doctor, and had access to prescription pads for narcotics. The defendant filled out prescriptions for OxyContin (80 mg, 60-pill count), written in the names of purported patients Stacy Clark, Jessica Connelly, Anestacia Wilson and Bettina Wilson, and sold the bogus prescriptions to Jimmie Lee Simmons and James Marsh. Simmons and Marsh then took the bogus prescriptions and purported patients to local pharmacies to have them filled. Williams and the purported patients were paid for each fraudulent prescription, which had a street value of approximately \$60 per OxyContin pill, or \$4,800 per bottle. The investigation so far has shown that at least 47 prescriptions were forged and filled, having a total street value of approximately \$180,000.

"This case demonstrates one way that prescription drugs, which begin as a legal commodity, can be diverted into the stream of illicit commerce," said U.S. Attorney Hochul. "In this instance, an employee with access to a prescription pad is accused of abusing that access for her own financial gain."

DEA Special Agent in Charge Brian R. Crowell stated, “The driving force of profiting from the misuse and abuse of diverted pain medicine led these individuals on a path to arrest. This two year-long investigation into the distribution of pain meds, obtained by forged prescriptions, illustrates how diverted pill traffickers operate no differently than heroin, marijuana, or cocaine traffickers going to any extreme to obtain and sell drugs for profit.”

The criminal complaint is the result of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Brian R. Crowell, Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division and the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

# # #