



Department of Justice

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CINCINNATI ATTORNEY RECEIVES 24-MONTH SENTENCE FOR ROLE IN FRAUDULENT PRESCRIPTION CONSPIRACY

CINCINNATI -- Cincinnati attorney Kenneth L. Lawson, 45, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 24 months imprisonment for his role in attempting to illegally obtain controlled substances, namely oxycodone and hydrocodone, by creating fraudulent prescriptions using the names of his clients or family members.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Russell Neville, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, Cincinnati and Cincinnati Police Chief Thomas H. Streicher, Jr. announced the sentence handed down today by Senior United States District Judge Sandra S. Beckwith.

Lawson pleaded guilty on September 24, 2008 to one count of conspiracy to illegally distribute a controlled substance.

Lawson and others fraudulently obtained prescriptions for controlled substances by creating an estimated 127 fraudulent patient files. At least one-third of the fraudulent files were names of clients of his legal practice.

Lawson and other members of the conspiracy created approximately 2500 fraudulent prescriptions involving a total of nearly 450,000 illegal unit doses of hydrocodone and oxycodone between August 2003 and January 2007.

According to court documents, Lawson conspired with others to obtain the drugs, commonly known as OxyContin, Percocet, and Percodan through a scheme involving fraudulent prescriptions between August 2003 and January, 2007.

Following the imprisonment, Lawson will be under the supervision of the court for one year. During that time, he will be required to complete 1,000 hours of community service. Lawson will be permitted to surrender voluntarily to the Bureau of Prisons in approximately 30 days to begin serving his sentence.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by Cincinnati Police Officers and DEA agents, as well as Deputy Criminal Chief Anthony Springer and Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Oakley, who prosecuted the case.

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