



Department of Justice

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PATASKALA MAN SENTENCED TO 120 MONTHS FOR GIVING MARIJUANA TO A MINOR AND OTHER DRUG CRIMES

Videotaped child smoking pot

COLUMBUS – Melvin Blevins, 19, of Pataskala was sentenced in United States District Court here today to a total of 120 months imprisonment. Blevins pleaded guilty on March 29 to a three count indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms marijuana, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and distribution of less than five grams of marijuana to a person under 21.

William E. Hunt, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Anthony C. Marotta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration; Jose Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, and Columbus Police Chief Walter Distelzweig announced the sentence imposed today by U.S. District Judge Michael Watson.

Blevins assisted Donald Dailey, the leader of a large-scale marijuana trafficking organization on a number of occasions, from January 1, 2008 through March 14, 2008. Blevins and others unloaded bails of marijuana at Dailey's house in Pataskala. Blevins assisted in unloading more than 1000 but less than 3000 kilograms of marijuana. On at least one occasion Blevins acted as counter-surveillance for Dailey, and followed an undercover agent investigating the case for an extended period of time.

In January of 2008 Blevins and Dailey's daughter videotaped themselves forcing a child of approximately one and a-half years old to inhale marijuana from a pipe.

On April 3, 2008 a .22 caliber revolver handgun and 14 dosage units of ecstasy (MDMA) was recovered from Blevins. Blevins told detectives that the pills found in his pocket were in fact ecstasy (MDMA), and that he did not use them, but that he did sell them.

Agents arrested Blevins on April 7, 2008. He has been in custody since his arrest. A federal grand jury indicted him on May 29, 2008. Blevins was also sentenced to serve five years on supervised release at the conclusion of his prison term.

Dailey pleaded guilty on March 17, 2009 to operating a continuing criminal enterprise and is awaiting sentencing.

Hunt commended the cooperative investigation by DEA and IRS CI agents, and Columbus Police narcotics officers, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. DeVillers, who prosecuted the case.

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