



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**John E. Murphy, Acting U.S. Attorney**

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**ODESSA PSEUDOEPHEDRINE PILL BUYER SENTENCED TO LIFE IN FEDERAL PRISON**

**John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney**, announced that David Alan Aldridge, of Odessa, Texas, was sentenced to life in federal prison and fined \$35,000 for his role in a Permian Basin methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution operation..

Aldridge's co-defendant, Michael Glyn Rains, also from Odessa, received 20 years in federal prison and fine of \$25,000 for his role in the same scheme. Both men appeared before United States District Judge Robert Junell yesterday for sentencing. In April, a federal jury found Aldridge and Rains guilty on all twenty-one counts in the Superseding Indictment, including conspiracy to manufacture over 50 grams of methamphetamine and conspiracy to possess pseudoephedrine with intent to manufacture methamphetamine.

From December 2005 until November 2008, Aldridge and Rains, along with at least 15 others who pled guilty and have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 44 months to 240 months, purchased hundreds of grams of pseudoephedrine from at least fifteen different pharmacies in the Midland-Odessa area. Pseudoephedrine is a primary precursor material utilized in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Pseudoephedrine ("PSE") is a legal product that is found in over-the-counter cold and allergy medications, but there are restrictions on the amount one person may purchase. The Combat Methamphetamine Act of 2005 prohibits the purchase of more than 3.6 grams of PSE in a single day, and also makes it a criminal misdemeanor to purchase more than 9 grams of PSE in a 30-day period. The jury found Aldridge guilty of violating the 9-gram limit during 6 separate 30-day periods and found Rains guilty of violating that limit during 10 separate 30-day periods. Aldridge and Rains attempted to avoid the purchase limits by buying one box at several different pharmacies, sometimes three different pharmacies on the same day. In addition, the jury found Aldridge and Rains each guilty of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. On separate occasions, each was found with over 12 grams of methamphetamine. Finally, the jury found Aldridge guilty of possession of chemicals, equipment, and materials having reasonable cause to believe they would be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

The case was investigated by the Midland office of the Texas Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with Ector County Sheriff's Department, Andrews Police Department, and Andrews County Sheriff's Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Austin Berry.

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