



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

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

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**MIDLAND MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING DRUGS TO A MINOR, USING  
A MINOR TO DISTRIBUTE DRUGS AT A SCHOOL, AND WITNESS TAMPERING**

**Acting United States Attorney John E. Murphy** announced that Sammy Ray Collins, 35, of Midland, was sentenced to 78 months imprisonment today in Midland Federal Court for *Distribution of Hydrocodone to a Minor, Use of a Minor to Distribute Hydrocone within a School Zone, and Witness Tampering*. He was found guilty at trial by a Midland Federal jury on June 30, 2009.

At the trial, the evidence presented by the government showed that on February 23, 2009, three different 15-year-old minors were caught in possession of hydrocodone pills, two of them with the pills at the school. After interviewing the minors, law enforcement officers and school officials were able to determine which minor had brought the drugs to the school and distributed them to the others. That minor implicated Collins as the source of the hydrocodone pills, and he willingly made a recorded phone call to Collins for the police. During that call, Collins, not knowing he was being recorded, made numerous incriminating statements regarding his involvement in supplying the hydrocodone to the minor which were played for the jury.

The evidence at trial also showed that in early May, 2009, after Collins was arrested and charged with the drug crimes federally, he persuaded the minor to write a phony letter exonerating him of the drug offenses in an attempt to influence the minor's cooperation and testimony at Collins' trial. For this, the jury found Collins guilty of witness tampering.

The case was investigated by the Midland Independent School District (MISD) Police, the Midland Police Department, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras.

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