



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

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HARRISBURG WOMAN SENTENCED IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Little Rock – Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced that Jessica Walker, age 47, of Harrisburg, Arkansas, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. Chief District Judge J. Leon Holmes. Jessica Walker was sentenced to serve 60 months in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, followed by 2 years of supervised release.

Jessica Walker pleaded guilty on April 7, 2010, to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from 2006 through June, 2009. Ms. Walker was charged in a federal indictment in January, 2008 following an investigation by the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department, the Arkansas State Police, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. According to authorities, Jessica Walker engaged in distributing methamphetamine from her Harrisburg residence, which was within 1000 feet of the Harrisburg High School, and on at least one occasion, sold methamphetamine in the presence of her infant granddaughter. Jessica Walker was held responsible for distributing between 200 grams and 350 grams of methamphetamine during the time period of the conspiracy.

"All too often, children are discovered in homes where controlled substances are manufactured, distributed, or used. The potential for abuse and neglect of these children is high. That's why the United States Attorney's Office is proud to be a partner in Arkansas' Drug Endangered Children's Alliance. This multi-disciplinary coalition is engaging in a concentrated effort to assess and meet the needs of drug-endangered children in our state, stated Duke."

This investigation was conducted by the Poinsett County Sheriff's Office, the Arkansas State Police, and the DEA Little Rock District Office, in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Arkansas. The matter was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anne Gardner.