



Department of Justice

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AMES MAN CONVICTED OF DISTRIBUTION OF HEROIN RESULTING IN DEATH

Marcus Burrage faces at least 20 years in Federal Prison

DES MOINES, Iowa -- Marcus Andrew Burrage, age 25, of Ames, Iowa, was convicted on June 29, 2011, of distribution of heroin and distribution of heroin resulting in death, announced United States Attorney Nicholas A. Klinefeldt. A federal jury returned the verdicts after a two and one-half day jury trial at the United States Courthouse in Des Moines. Chief Judge Robert W. Pratt will schedule a sentencing date at a later date, following preparation of a presentence report.

Because one of the distributions of heroin resulted in a death, Burrage faces a sentence of at least twenty years in prison, and a maximum prison sentence of life. Burrage will remain in custody pending imposition of sentence.

The evidence at trial showed that Burrage distributed heroin in the Ames area on two occasions: once, on November 19, 2009, to a person cooperating with law enforcement; and a second time, on April 14, 2010, to Joshua Banka. Banka, age 32, died the next morning at his home in Nevada, Iowa, following a heroin overdose. The jury found that the heroin that Burrage sold to Mr. Banka was a contributing factor to Mr. Banka's death.

This case was investigated by the Nevada, Iowa, Police Department; the Ames, Iowa Police Department; the Central Iowa Drug Task Force; the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement; and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.