



United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota

News Release

B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney

Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 22, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Duluth man indicted for distributing narcotics

MINNEAPOLIS — A federal indictment unsealed late yesterday charges a 34-year-old Duluth man with possessing with intent to distribute Opana, which contains the controlled substance oxymorphone. The indictment, which was filed on August 17, 2011, charges Jeremy Dionne Norvell with one count of possession with intent to distribute Opana. The indictment was unsealed following Norvell's initial appearance in federal court.

The indictment alleges that between May 3 and June 8, 2011, Norvell possessed with intent to distribute approximately 420 40-milligram Opana tablets. Opana is commonly referred to as "O-Bomb" or "the Blues," depending on the type of tablet possessed. The opiate in the drug is extremely potent, especially when injected or snorted. Opana abuse has become increasingly more prevalent since Oxycontin, which contains the related opiate oxycodone, was altered to discourage abuse.

If convicted, Norvell faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Duluth Police Department, the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force, and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen A. Slaughter.

###

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.
