



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announces that **JASON HASTINGS**, age 30, of Sherrill, New York, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court for purchasing at retail more than 9 grams of ephedrine base, as specified by the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 (CMEA). **HASTINGS** was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Glenn T. Suddaby to 15 days imprisonment, a \$2,500 fine, a \$100 special assessment, and one year of supervised release. He was directed to report to the U.S. Marshals to commence his sentence by June 7, 2011.

On November 30, 2010, **HASTINGS** plead guilty to a one count information charging that from January 3, 2010, through January 26, 2010, in the Northern District of New York, **HASTINGS** knowingly and intentionally purchased at retail during a 30 day period more than 9 grams of pseudoephedrine base, which is a List I Chemical, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 844(a). **HASTINGS** committed this offense after a prior conviction for a New York State drug offense had become final. That prior conviction occurred on April 7, 2003, when **HASTINGS** was convicted in Oneida County Court of Criminal Possession Controlled Substance-7th degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 3 years probation.

The CMEA regulates, among other things, retail over-the-counter sales of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine products which are common ingredients found in cough, cold and allergy products. Retail provisions of the CMEA include daily sales limits and 30 day purchase limits, placement of product out of direct customer access, sales logbooks, customer ID verification, employee training and self-certification of regulated sellers. Congress enacted CMEA and the sale and purchase limitations expressly to curtail the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine since ephedrine based products are needed for the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine. The sales and purchase restrictions were determined based on what was deemed to be reasonable non-prescription quantities that would be used for lawful purposes. Pseudoephedrine and ephedrine are the principal precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine or amphetamine.

In order to purchase products containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine an individual must show identification and sign a log book at pharmacies or other retail businesses. The Drug Enforcement Administration along with state and local law enforcement are responsible for

monitoring these log books in order to identify if any one person is purchasing more than 9 grams within 30 days. By way of example, assuming individual pills each contain 30 milligrams of ephedrine, the 9 gram monthly limit allows for the purchase of up to 371 pills.

This prosecution resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Oneida City Police Department.

Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Geoffrey J. L. Brown, the prosecutor handling the case, at (315) 448-0695.