

Department of Justice

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FORMER JAIL GUARD PLEADS GUILTY TO STEROID CHARGES

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Richard Eldridge, 36, of West Seneca, N.Y. pleaded guilty to distributing anabolic steroids before Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$500,000 or both.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. McCabe, who is handling the case, in the fall of 2010, Eldridge obtained and distributed steroids while employed as an Immigration Enforcement Agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Removal Operations, at the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility in Batavia, N.Y.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Christopher M. Piehota and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 10, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Skretny.