

Department of Justice

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LOCAL MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF BATH SALTS **WITH INTENT FOR DISTRIBUTION**

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Andrew Russell, 26, of Rochester, N.Y., who was convicted of possession with intent to distribute 4-Ethyl-N-ethylcathinone (4-EEC), a controlled substance analogue, more popularly known as “bath salts,” was sentenced to 41 months in prison and three years supervised release by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas E. Gregory, who handled the case, stated that on July 25, 2011, Russell was stopped in his vehicle by members of the Rochester Police Department. At that time, the defendant was in possession of approximately 277 grams of the powdery substance. A subsequent chemical test of the substance by the Drug Enforcement Administration revealed the presence of 4-Ethyl-N-ethylcathinone.

The Drug Enforcement Administration, along with many state and federal law enforcement agencies, have recently ramped up their efforts to combat the importation, distribution, and use of designer drugs commonly known on the street as “bath salts”. “Bath salts” are synthetic stimulants that have no real value as a bath salt or other bath product. “Bath salts” have been shown to have a number of adverse and largely unpredictable effects, which include psychotic episodes, delusions, panic attacks, increased heart rate, chest pain, agitation, dizziness, nausea and vomiting.

“Simply put, bath salts are dangerous, even deadly,” said U.S. Attorney Hochul. “Our Office, along with our law enforcement partners at every level, will work vigorously to keep them off the streets of our community.”

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Brian R. Crowell, Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division along with officers and investigators with the Rochester Police Department, under the direction of Chief James Shepard.

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