



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

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CONTACT: RITA M. RUMBELOW
PHONE: (608) 264-5158
TTY: (608) 264-5006

MADISON MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS ON CRACK COCAINE CHARGE

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Andre a/k/a "Turkey" Parson, 28, Madison, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 15 years in federal prison, without the possibility of parole, for possessing crack cocaine with intent to distribute. Parson will also serve an eight-year term of supervised release upon completion of his sentence. Parson pleaded guilty to this charge on January 8, 2010.

In 2009, Parson sold crack cocaine to a confidential informant on six occasions. Officers with the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force tried to arrest Parson on April 14, 2009, on an outstanding child support warrant and he fled. The officer who chased him saw Parson throw a bag on a nearby rooftop. Officers retrieved the bag, which contained 53 grams of crack.

At sentencing, Parson argued for the statutory mandatory minimum sentence of ten years. Judge Crabb declined to sentence Parson to ten years for a number of reasons. First, he has three prior felony drug convictions and Judge Crabb observed that whenever Parson was released from his prior state terms of imprisonment, he immediately went back to selling drugs.

Second, she said Parson is a very self-absorbed person with a great sense of self-entitlement who presents a real danger to the community. That finding was based, in part, on Parson's prior battery conviction in which he hit a pregnant girlfriend, resulting in injury.

Finally, Parson argued for leniency because he has fathered five children and he wanted to be a part of their lives. Rather than viewing that as a mitigating factor, Judge Crabb noted that Parson has fathered the children without any regard to what's going to happen to them; that he owes over \$50,000 in child support arrears; and that he has never obtained employment where his wages could be garnished to meet his support obligations.

The charge against Parson was the result of an investigation conducted by Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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