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FAYETTE COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON

CHARLESTON, W. Va. -- Don Lamont Wilkerson, 36, of Smithers, West Virginia was sentenced today by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston to 51 months in prison. Wilkerson previously pled guilty, admitting he had distributed quantities of oxycodone.

On January 15, 2009, agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration, assisted by task force officers with the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT), utilized a confidential informant to conduct a controlled purchase of 20 OxyContin 80 mg pills from Wilkerson at \$60/pill for a total of \$1,200. The drug deal took place in St. Albans, West Virginia.

At the time of this offense, Wilkerson was serving a term of supervised release following an eight-year prison sentence after his conviction for being a felon in possession of two firearms. Wilkerson admitted to violating the terms of his supervised release by distributing the OxyContin pills to the confidential informant.

For the drug-trafficking conviction, Judge Johnston sentenced Wilkerson to 27 months in prison. Wilkerson was also sentenced to an additional 24 months in prison for violating the terms and conditions of his supervised release on the firearms conviction. The Judge ordered the 24-month sentence to be served consecutive to the 27-month drug sentence.

In pronouncing sentence, Judge Johnston noted the seriousness of the offense and the growing problems caused by illicit pill sales in this District. He also considered Wilkerson's criminal history which includes two prior felony convictions for trafficking in cocaine and two convictions involving firearms, including the felony conviction for which he was serving supervised release in this case. The Court further referenced Wilkerson's minimal work history despite his talents, intelligence, and the educational opportunities he squandered.

The Drug Enforcement Administration and the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team conducted the investigation.

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