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PARKERSBURG MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON ON DRUG CHARGES

Man Used Wood County Residence to Facilitate Illegal Drug Activity

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Joseph Leon Kay, 32, of Parkersburg, was sentenced to 100 months in prison yesterday by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston. Kay previously pleaded guilty in June 2010, to maintaining a place for the purpose of distributing cocaine base. From around June 5, 2009 until June 26, 2009, Kay granted several individuals access to his Wood County residence to sell cocaine base.

According to court documents, the defendant admitted to assisting in the drug-trafficking activities that took place at his home. Kay provided contact information for addicts to the associates operating out of his residence. Kay allowed associates to use household appliances to cook cocaine powder into cocaine base and provided a safe which was used to store valuables and an inventory of cocaine base. It was also revealed that Kay loaned an automobile to fellow drug traffickers to travel to Columbus, OH, to purchase additional cocaine. Dealers compensated Kay with distribution quantities of crack cocaine which he used and distributed to other addicts. As stipulated in his plea agreement, Kay distributed at least 500 grams but not more than 1.5 kilograms of cocaine base from January 2009 to June 26, 2009.

The conviction stemmed from an investigation conducted by the Parkersburg Violent Crimes & Narcotics Task Force with assistance by the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory.

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