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**MASON COUNTY WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG CONSPIRACY**

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. – Melissa Jo Plants, 31, of Ashton, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine and a quantity of oxycodone. Plants, who is scheduled to be sentenced on February 7, 2011, faces up to 40 years in prison and a \$2 million fine.

According to court documents, in 2007 Plants began providing her car to her drug dealer in exchange for crack cocaine. She also made approximately 15 trips to Detroit, Michigan with another individual to obtain cocaine base for distribution in and around the Huntington area. The investigation revealed that Plants also made numerous bank deposits of large amounts of cash consisting of profits from drug sales. The deposits were for the benefit of others in the drug organization. Plants also stipulated in her plea agreement that she assisted another person in the sale of oxycontin.

The Huntington Drug & Violent Crime Task Force conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney R. Gregory McVey is handling the prosecution.

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