

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

LOCAL MAN SENTENCED FOR SELLING COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

St. Louis, MO: The United States Attorney's Office announced today that Mark Hughes was sentenced to 46 months of imprisonment on multiple charges involving the illegal importation and sale of counterfeit and misbranded Viagra® and Cialis®. Hughes was also ordered to pay restitution.

According to the facts filed with the court, for about three years prior to December 2009, Hughes began ordering large quantities of prescription and pharmaceutical drugs from sources in India and China without prescriptions for resale. Hughes is not licensed or authorized to sell and distribute prescription drugs and pharmaceuticals. Hughes sold drugs mostly by word of mouth. He sold counterfeit Viagra® and Cialis® for \$5.00 per pill. Hughes admitted with his plea that he sold and ordered more than about 11,000 doses of counterfeit Viagra® and Cialis®, which would have an infringement value of more than \$120,000.

MARK HUGHES, St. Louis, Missouri, pled guilty last October to one felony count of trafficking in counterfeit goods and one felony count of selling misbranded drugs. He appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Henry Autrey.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection and the Postal Inspection Service, with the assistance of the Food and Drug Administration. Assistant United States Attorney John Bodenhause handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.