



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, May 25, 2010

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KINGMAN COUPLE SENTENCED FOR FRAUDULENTLY DISTRIBUTING INDIAN-MANUFACTURED COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

PHOENIX. – Randy T. French, 53, and Sheila D. French, 44, both of Kingman, Ariz., were sentenced yesterday for their respective roles in conducting a scheme to distribute unapproved foreign prescription drugs. Randy French was sentenced to 18 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Sheila French was sentenced to three years probation, to include 12 months of home confinement. The Frenches were ordered to forfeit \$50,000 in assets from their bank accounts, to perform 100 hours of community service, and to cease and desist from any future involvement in the distribution of pharmaceuticals. In March 2009, the Frenches pleaded guilty to felony charges of Conspiracy and Introducing Misbranded Drugs into Interstate Commerce.

“The Frenches enriched themselves through flagrant misrepresentation and a derelict disregard for vital consumer health protections. Their greed trumped their customer’s health,” said U.S. Attorney Dennis K. Burke. “We are grateful to the FDA Office of Criminal Investigations and the Lake Havasu City Police for their thorough investigation.”

According to their pleas, the Frenches falsely represented to their customers that they were selling “name brand,” FDA-approved prescription, including popular lifestyle drugs like ‘Viagra’ and ‘Cialis,” and other popular drugs purporting to address high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, and other serious health problems. The Frenches then caused their customers’ orders to be filled instead with unapproved and misbranded imitation drugs from India. In addition, the Frenches acknowledged that from 2004 to 2006 their illegal prescription drug business, Prescription Buyers Group, generated revenues of more than \$2,500,000.

“By purchasing drugs from outside of the secure pharmaceutical supply chain, the defendants in this case exposed their customers to medications that might have contained unapproved, undeclared or sub-potent ingredients”, said Thomas Emerick, Special Agent in Charge, Food and Drug Administration’s Office of Criminal Investigations Los Angeles Field Office. “We commend the US Attorney’s Office for their prosecution of this case, as well as the Lake Havasu Police Department for their invaluable assistance.”

The investigation preceding the Indictment was conducted by the Food and Drug Administration’s Office of Criminal Investigations with the assistance of the Lake Havasu City Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Peter Sexton, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, and by Special Assistant United States Attorney Steven J. Tave of the FDA.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-0710-PCT-NVW

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RELEASE NUMBER: 2010-107(French)■

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