



Department of Justice

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OXYCODONE DISTRIBUTOR SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 22 YEARS IN PRISON

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Stephen D. Merryday yesterday sentenced Michael Douglas Happel (45, Tampa) to 234 months in federal prison for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute Oxycodone. The court also sentenced Happel to 3 years imprisonment, to run consecutive to the 19.5 year sentence, for violating supervised release for a prior conviction of conspiracy to manufacture 100 or more marijuana plants. Additionally, the court ordered Happel to serve a lifetime of supervised release following his prison sentence.

Happel pled guilty on April 13, 2011.

According to court documents, from August 2009 through August 2010, Happel received approximately 19,000 Oxycodone pills by fraudulently obtained prescriptions. He would then sell the Oxycodone pills to others. Records show that Happel was seeing as many as ten doctors and using as many as twenty-one pharmacies to promote his illegal activity, as well as paying other individuals to go to clinics and pharmacies to obtain the pills.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Temple Terrace Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Shauna S. Hale.