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## **FORMER SHREVEPORT PAIN MANAGEMENT DOCTOR SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

***Dr. James Hill ordered to pay \$26,077.88  
in restitution***

**Shreveport, Louisiana . . . DR. JAMES THOMAS HILL**, age 59, of Shreveport, was sentenced today by United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. to spend **200 months in prison** on drug distribution and health care fraud charges, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. **HILL was also ordered to pay \$26,077.88 in restitution.** Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

HILL, a Canadian citizen and physician licensed to practice in Louisiana, and working in the Shreveport area, was indicted in January 2006. The 114-count superseding indictment charged HILL with 32 counts of health care fraud; 80 counts of distribution of controlled substances; 1 count of accessory after the fact; and 1 count of forfeiture. HILL pleaded guilty to one count of health care fraud and one count of distribution of a controlled substance in December 2006. HILL surrendered his license to practice medicine in Louisiana, as well as his controlled substance handling and dispensing privileges from all state and federal agencies. HILL agreed not to seek to obtain or have reinstated any licenses to practice medicine or controlled substance handling and/or dispensing privileges during any period of supervision or probation.

U.S. Attorney Washington concurred with Judge Hicks' statement that Dr. HILL was a "drug dealer with a medical license."

Evidence was presented at today's hearing that HILL provided a patient of his, who had taken a drug pre-employment screen and anticipated a positive finding for methadone, with a fake prescription that would validate the positive finding. A little over a year later, the patient passed away and autopsy results showed that his death was the result of a methadone and Xanax overdose.

Other evidence at the hearing showed that on January 12, 2006, aware that he was about to be indicted by the federal grand jury, HILL fled to Canada. He left behind two prescription pads, which he had signed in blank, and numerous prescriptions which he completed and post-dated. HILL left these prescriptions with non-medically trained personnel, including a patient volunteer. After the FBI learned that the prescriptions were being distributed to patients, a search warrant was obtained to search HILL's office, and arrest warrants were obtained for HILL and one of the individuals who distributed the prescriptions. HILL was arrested upon his return from Canada and has been detained ever since.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: "This doctor violated his basic oath to first do no harm and brought great shame to the noble practice of medicine. His crimes gravely affected public safety and his lengthy prison sentence is an appropriate consequence. This office will continue to aggressively pursue those who endanger the public and violate federal law no matter who they may be or what station they occupy in life."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Shreveport Resident Agency, and the Office of Personnel Management, Office of Inspector General, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Mignonne Griffing.

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