

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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NIAGARA FALLS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRESCRIPTION FRAUD

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Robert Bradley, 31, of Niagara Falls, pleaded guilty to attempting to obtain a controlled substance by fraud before U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara. The charge carries a maximum penalty of four years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Rogowski, who is handling the case, stated that the defendant attempted to use a prescription he knew was fraudulent to acquire OxyContin, a controlled substance, on January 13, 2010, from a pharmacy in Niagara Falls, New York. The prescription was purportedly authorized for a third party by Dr. Pravin Mehta, a doctor who closed his Niagara Falls medical office after being arrested on federal drug distribution charges on January 27, 2011.

When Bradley attempted to have the prescription filled, an alert pharmacist suspected that it might be fraudulent and called Niagara Falls Police. The police then contacted the person in whose name the prescription had been issued. She informed police that while she was a patient of Dr. Mehta, she had never been prescribed a controlled substance and had not been to see the doctor that day. Police proceeded to the pharmacy and Bradley attempted to flee. During his plea, Bradley admitted that he received the script from a former employee of Mehta.

The Bradley case is part of a larger investigation into the abuse of prescription drugs in Niagara Falls, New York. Bradley is the fourth defendant to plead guilty.

The guilty pleas were the result of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge John P. Gilbride, the Niagara Falls Police Department, under the direction of

Chief John Chella, New York State Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (NYS-BNE) , the Internal Revenue Service, the New York State Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Niagara County Sheriff's Drug Task Force.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 26, 2011 at 12:30 pm before Judge Arcara.

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