

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## **THREE BROTHERS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES**

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Randy Knighton, 49, Robert Knighton, 53 and Steven Knighton, 45, all of Niagara Falls, N.Y., have been charged by Criminal Complaints with various violations of federal drug distribution laws including possession of controlled substances with the intent to distribute and to distribute a controlled substance. The defendants were arrested early this morning. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a fine of \$1,000,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys George C. Burgasser and Thomas S. Duszkievicz, who are handling the case, stated that according to the Complaints, the defendants were involved in the distribution of cocaine and crack cocaine in the City of Niagara Falls. Steven Knighton had \$41,000 seized from his vehicle after making arrangements with a confidential informant to purchase two kilograms of cocaine.

Randy Knighton, Robert Knighton and Steven Knighton made an initial appearance in federal court this afternoon and are being held pending bail hearings.

The Criminal Complaints are the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, under the direction of Wilbert L. Plummer, Acting Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Division and Niagara Falls Police Detectives, under the direction of Superintendent John Chella .

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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