

Department of Justice

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2012
www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

MIDDLETOWN WOMAN CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING AND AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Nicolette Simone Simons, 31, of Middletown, N.Y., was arrested and charged by Criminal Complaint with unlawfully possessing with intent to distribute ecstasy pills and aggravated identity theft. The drug charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine, the aggravated identity theft charge carries a mandatory sentence of two years, which must be served consecutive to any other sentence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy C. Lynch, who is handling the case, stated that according to the Complaint, on Thursday, September 13, 2012, Simons attempted to enter the United States from Canada at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge. When entering the U.S., Simons produced a U.S. passport in the name of another individual and presented herself as that person to Customs and Border Protection Officers. After determining the defendant's true identity, officers noticed Simons kicking a black purse under the bench in front of her. Officers then searched the purse and found approximately 593 ecstasy pills wrapped around a diaper.

The arrest is the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, under the direction of James C. Spero, and Officers from the United States Customs and Border Protection, under the direction of Randy Howe, Acting Director of Field Operations.

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.

###