

22 cr 120 ECT/BRT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

INDICTMENT

Plaintiff,

21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1)

21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)

v.

21 U.S.C. § 846

21 U.S.C. § 853

1. FAITH ROSE GRATZ,
2. AXEL RENE KRAMER,

28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)

Defendants.

THE UNITED STATES GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

COUNT 1

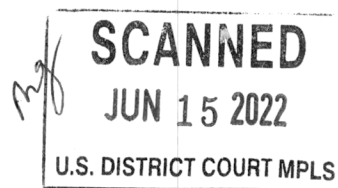
(Conspiracy To Distribute Methamphetamine)

1. From at least January 2022 and continuing through on or about April 8, 2022, in the State and District of Minnesota, the defendants,

**FAITH ROSE GRATZ and
AXEL RENE KRAMER,**

did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally conspire with each other and with others, known and unknown to the grand jury, to distribute 50 grams or more of actual methamphetamine, a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), and 846.

2. It was part of the conspiracy that GRATZ and KRAMER were involved in a drug distribution organization in the Minnesota Correctional Facility located in Stillwater, Minnesota ("MCF – Stillwater"). The MCF – Stillwater is Minnesota's largest close custody (high security) prison facility. KRAMER is currently serving a 288-month sentence for second degree murder.



3. It was further part of the conspiracy that KRAMER obtained wholesale quantities methamphetamine from sources of supply outside the prison. GRATZ, who worked as a corrections officer at the MCF – Stillwater, used her position as a prison guard to smuggle methamphetamine into the prison. Once GRATZ smuggled the methamphetamine into the secure facility, she provided it to KRAMER.

4. It was further part of the conspiracy that GRATZ smuggled multiple cellular telephones into the prison facility. GRATZ provided the phones to KRAMER. KRAMER used the phones to communicate with other inmates inside MCF – Stillwater and individuals outside that facility. KRAMER used the phones to facilitate his drug distribution network from within the prison.

5. It was further part of the conspiracy that KRAMER and GRATZ would communicate regularly with KRAMER using one of the phones that GRATZ smuggled into the prison. Over the course of the conspiracy, KRAMER and GRATZ exchanged hundreds of text messages to each other. GRATZ's cell phone number was saved in KRAMER's phone as "Bbygirl." GRATZ and KRAMER communicated about the drug distribution conspiracy. GRATZ and KRAMER also communicated about a romantic relationship, including discussing getting married once KRAMER was released from prison.

6. It was further part of the conspiracy that GRATZ warned KRAMER about upcoming searches of inmates' cells. After receiving GRATZ's warnings, KRAMER hid his phone and drugs to avoid detection.

7. It was further part of the conspiracy that KRAMER communicated with another inmate at MCF – Stillwater ("Unindicted Co-Conspirator 1"). Unindicted Co-

Conspirator 1 worked with several individuals outside of the prison who supplied prepackaged drugs. Unindicted Co-Conspirator 1 provided KRAMER information about his drug sources, including planned meet up times and locations and contact information for individuals who supplied drug packages. KRAMER then arranged for GRATZ to pick up the drug packages.

8. It was further part of the conspiracy that after picking up the drug packages from the sources of supply outside of the prison. GRATZ used her position as a corrections officer to smuggle the drugs into the secure facility and avoid detection. Once GRATZ brought the drugs into the prison, she gave the drugs to KRAMER while she was on duty responsible for guarding him. GRATZ smuggled drug packages into the prison on approximately six different occasions.

9. It was further part of the conspiracy that on or about April 4, 2022, KRAMER sent GRATZ a text message asking if she was able to pick up a drug package that evening. GRATZ replied that she was able to. KRAMER provided GRATZ with the cell phone number of the individual who had the drugs. KRAMER instructed GRATZ to call the number and let the individual know she was the person who was picking up the drug package.

10. It was further part of the conspiracy that on or about April 4, 2022, GRATZ met up with the individual that she had communicated with about obtaining the drugs in the parking lot of a gas station. The individual provided GRATZ with a drug package.

11. It was further part of the conspiracy that on or about April 8, 2022, when GRATZ returned to work at MCF – Stillwater, she brought the drug package to the

prison facility in her car. GRATZ parked her car in the employee parking lot. GRATZ entered the prison facility to determine if she could smuggle the drugs in while avoiding detection. Once GRATZ entered the facility, she was confronted by law enforcement officers, who had recovered KRAMER's cell phone and become aware of the drug distribution operation. Officers searched GRATZ's car and recovered approximately a half pound of methamphetamine.

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

COUNT 2

(Possession With the Intent To Distribute Methamphetamine)

On or about April 8, 2022, in the State and District of Minnesota, the defendant,

FAITH ROSE GRATZ,

did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of actual methamphetamine, a controlled substance, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

If convicted of Count 1 of this Indictment, the defendant, **FAITH ROSE GRATZ**, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853, any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds she obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such violation, and any property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of such violation.

If any of the above-described forfeitable property is unavailable for forfeiture, the United States intends to seek the forfeiture of substitute property as provided for

in Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

A TRUE BILL

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

FOREPERSON
