



Department of Justice

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WAUSAU MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DISTRIBUTING HEROIN

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Richard E. Crayton, 44, Wausau, Wis., was convicted of distributing heroin following a two-day trial in federal court in Madison.

U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for March 31, 2011. Crayton faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

On May 2, 2009, Nicole Hedges was found dead at the Haven Shelter Home in Merrill, Wisconsin. An autopsy determined that her cause of death was a heroin overdose. An investigation conducted by the Merrill Police Department determined that Crayton distributed heroin to Kevin Krugel, who later shared the heroin with Nicole Hedges. Two other individuals witnessed Crayton sell the heroin to Krugel on May 2, 2009. Several witnesses involved in the investigation testified that Crayton was their source for heroin in the Wausau area.

Kevin Krugel previously pleaded guilty to reckless homicide in Lincoln County Circuit Court and was sentenced to one year in jail and a five-year stayed sentence.

United States Attorney Vaudreuil praised the efforts of the Merrill Police Department for their hard work and thorough investigation.

The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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