

Beat: News

Fentanyl, Meth Dealer Who Hid Drugs in Teddy Bear Sentenced to Prison

Bryce Montrea Hodges, 34, of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, Ohio, 12.07.2022, 09:32 Time

USPA NEWS - Bryce Montrea Hodges, 34, of Cincinnati has been sentenced in U.S. District Court to 230 months in prison for dealing drugs out of an apartment where children lived. He also illegally possessed firearms.

The FBI, Warren County Drug Task Force, the DEA, and the Northeast Hamilton County Drug Task Force began investigating Hodges in January 2021. Agents made five controlled buys of methamphetamine and fentanyl over a matter of weeks. Investigators arranged a sixth purchase and arrested Hodges without incident when he showed up for the deal at a location on Springdale Pike in March 2021.

Investigators found a stuffed teddy bear in his car. Inside the teddy bear was a hidden compartment containing a plastic bag with approximately 72.5 grams of acetylfentanyl.

Investigators searched Hodges' apartment in Springdale. Several people, including children, lived there. Agents found a hidden compartment in a bathroom. Hodges had stored a loaded handgun, more fentanyl and drug paraphernalia in the compartment. Agents also found a blender used to "cut" fentanyl when they searched a child's bedroom closet.

A federal grand jury returned a nine-count indictment against Hodges in May 2021, charging him with five counts of illegal distribution of a controlled substance, two counts of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, and one count each of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug offense and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Hodges pleaded guilty on October 12, 2021, to all counts charged in the indictment.

"Courts reserve their most severe punishments for those whose crimes can have a devastating impact on children," said Kenneth L. Parker, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio. "Crimes involving illegal drugs and firearms threaten the safety of our entire community."

Joining Mr. Parker in announcing the sentence imposed by U.S. District Judge Michael Barrett are J. William Rivers, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Cincinnati Division, members of the Warren County Drug Task Force, the Northeast Hamilton County Drug Task Force, and DEA Detroit Field Division Special Agent in Charge Orville O. Greene. Assistant United States Attorney Kelly K. Rossi represented the United States in this case.

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Wendy writes for the United States Press Agency and is a former columnist with the Fulton County Expositor, Wauseon, Ohio.

Source: Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Ohio press release July 7, 2022

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-21237/fentanyl-meth-dealer-who-hid-drugs-in-teddy-bear-sentenced-to-prison.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Wendy Westhoven

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

United Press Association, Inc.
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA
(702) 943.0321 Local
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile
info@unitedpressassociation.org
info@gna24.com
www.gna24.com