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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Office of DA Creuzot Secures Conviction in First Fentanyl Case Tried in Dallas County

(Dallas, Texas) – The Office of Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot has secured a three-decade-long prison sentence in the first fentanyl dealing case tried and sentenced in front of a Dallas County jury.

33-year-old Richard Leal was convicted of the Manufacture or Delivery of a Controlled Substance Greater than or Equal to 4 grams but less than 200 grams on April 4, 2024, and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Just 2 milligrams of fentanyl, equal to 10 to 15 grains of table salt, is considered a lethal dose.

"This significant sentencing marks a pivotal moment in our ongoing efforts to combat the distribution of deadly opioids like fentanyl in Dallas County," said DA John Creuzot. "My office remains committed to holding accountable those who profit from spreading such dangerous substances within our communities."

Andrew Anagnostis, Chief of the Organized Crime Division said, "The prosecutors of the Organized Crime Division are committed to the fight against those who deliver poisons like fentanyl to our streets."

On February 18, 2023, the Dallas Police Department was searching for a wanted individual at a particular address where Mr. Leal was also present. When Mr. Leal left that address, covert officers began following him and eventually pulled him over after observing multiple traffic violations. During that traffic stop, Mr. Leal was found in possession of a shoulder satchel containing bags of cocaine, a bag with fentanyl pills, pill bottles with Alprazolam pills, a bag with methamphetamine pills, and a bag of marijuana. During a police interview, Mr. Leal spoke about being able to get thousands of pills and bricks to distribute as samples for his people.

"The conviction and sentencing of Mr. Leal underscore the grave threat that fentanyl poses to public health and safety. We must continue our collaborative efforts to educate the public about the risks associated with opioids and ensure access to life-saving interventions like Narcan," DA Creuzot said.

Thank you to ADAs Antoinette Wood and Michael Chang and to Investigator Alex Lipsey for their diligent work on this case.

Resources

What is Naloxone?

Naloxone (Brand name: Narcan) is a medication that can reverse an overdose from opioids — including fentanyl. If you or someone you know is at risk of an opioid overdose, speak with your doctor or pharmacist about obtaining naloxone to carry and keep at home. It is recommended to keep at least three doses on hand at a time. A prescription is not required.

Signs of an overdose:

- Small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”
- Face is extremely pale and/or feels cold or clammy to the touch
- Body goes limp
- Fingernails or lips have a purple or blue color
- Vomiting or making gurgling noises
- Cannot be awakened or unable to speak
- Breathing or heartbeat slows or stops

How to save a life:

1. Call 911 right away
2. Try to wake the person up
3. Give naloxone, if available
4. Begin rescue breathing or CPR
5. Turn the person on their side to prevent choking
6. Stay with the person until emergency services arrive