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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: First Fentanyl Murder Case Prosecuted in Dallas County

(Dallas, Texas) — Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot announced today the conviction and sentencing of Destin Scott, marking the first Dallas County prosecution under Texas' fentanyl murder statute enacted in 2023.

Scott pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 20 years in prison for his role in providing the narcotics that led to a fatal overdose.

The case stemmed from the death of a woman who was found deceased inside her vehicle outside a fast-food restaurant, with no initial signs of foul play. Detective Jacob White with the Dallas Police Department Overdose Unit responded to the scene and recovered two cell phones and a baggie of pills from the vehicle. An autopsy later determined the cause of death to be the toxic effects of MDMA and fentanyl.

A comprehensive digital investigation played a critical role in identifying the source of the drugs. Through analysis of data extracted from the victim's phones, social media communications, and call detail records, law enforcement identified Mr. Scott as the individual who supplied the narcotics and traced the transaction directly to him. Investigators determined the victim purchased fentanyl and MDMA from Mr. Scott the day before her death.

This prosecution was made possible under Texas House Bill 6 (HB6), which became law on September 1, 2023. The statute reclassified fentanyl-related overdose deaths as "poisonings" and created the offense of fentanyl murder, allowing individuals who distribute fentanyl resulting in death to be charged with homicide.

To secure a conviction under the statute, the State must prove:

- The defendant knowingly distributed fentanyl to the victim
- The distribution directly caused the victim's death, supported by toxicology and investigative evidence
- The defendant acted with knowledge of the drug being fentanyl and disregarded its lethal risk

Thank you to the Dallas Police Department for their work on this investigation. Additional thanks to Assistant District Attorney Sarah Beth DeLay for her work on this case, along with DA's Office Investigators Bonita Morgan, Eddie Lopez, and Tom Naulty, as well as Digital Intelligence Analyst Greg Gambrell.