



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

For Immediate Release:
CONTACT: James Pollack
Phone: (330) 604-2739
pollack@prosecutor.summitoh.net
Twitter: @ProsecutorWalsh
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Bedford Man Sentenced to 8 Years in Prison in Connection with Drug Death

AKRON, Ohio (Monday, May 07, 2018) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that visiting retired Judge Richard Reinbold sentenced Mark Wisniewski, 41, of Forest Drive in Bedford to eight years in prison for the drug related death of 22-year old Jodie Gunnoe.

On Friday April 13, 2018, a Summit County jury found Wisniewski guilty of the following charges:

- Involuntary Manslaughter – a felony of the 1st degree
- Corrupting Another with Drugs – a felony of the 2nd degree
- Trafficking in Heroin – a felony of the 5th degree

“These drugs have impacted so many lives in our community. They have left a trail of death and destruction and we must hold the peddlers of this poison accountable,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “As we work to find a solution to this health crisis, my office will continue to fight for people like Jodie and their families impacted by these drugs.”

On July 27, 2016, Jodie Gunnoe was found dead by her father in her Twinsburg apartment. The Summit County Medical Examiner determined Gunnoe died as a result of ingesting several drugs, including heroin. As part of their investigation, police discovered Wisniewski sold the victim the drugs. Wisniewski admitted to providing the drugs to the victim. Wisniewski’s DNA was also found on packages containing drugs in the victim’s apartment.

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Mark Wisniewski's case is only the second involuntary manslaughter case in Summit County involving heroin or fentanyl to be decided by a jury trial. The first trial was in June of 2016 when Kevin Ecker was found guilty of over a dozen charges and eventually sentenced to 21 years in prison.

Since 2013, 67 defendants in Summit County Common Pleas Court have been convicted of involuntary manslaughter charges connected to heroin or fentanyl deaths.