



# SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

## SUMMIT COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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### **Akron Man Sentenced to 21 Years in Prison in Connection with Fentanyl Death**

AKRON, Ohio (Friday, July 22, 2016) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Kevin Ecker, 30, of Baughman Street in Akron, was sentenced to 21 years in prison in connection with the drug related death of 20-year-old Jessica Canada Holmes, as well as other drug offenses.

On June 16, 2016, a Summit County jury found Ecker guilty of the following charges:

- Involuntary Manslaughter – a felony of the 1<sup>st</sup> degree
- Corrupting Another with Drugs – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (Fentanyl) – felonies of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree
- Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (Methamphetamine) – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (Fentanyl) – a felony of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Trafficking in Marijuana – felonies of the 4<sup>th</sup> degree
- Aggravated Possession of Drugs (Methamphetamine) – a felony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree
- Aggravated Possession of Drugs (Fentanyl) – a felony of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree
- Possession of Cocaine – a felony of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree
- Two Counts of Possession of Drugs – felonies of the 5<sup>th</sup> degree

“Heroin, fentanyl, and now carfentanil, have left a trail of death in our community. Kevin Ecker, and drug dealers like him, must be held accountable for preying on people caught in the grips of addiction,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “As we search for solutions to this health crisis, my office will continue to fight for victims and their families who are battling with this crippling addiction.”

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On March 22, 2015, Holmes purchased what she thought was heroin. Holmes was later found dead in her Kenmore Avenue home. The Summit County Medical Examiner determined Holmes died after ingesting Fentanyl and not heroin. Investigators traced the drug back to Ecker.

The other guilty verdicts are related to multiple incidents involving Mr. Ecker from March of 2015 and February of 2016.

Kevin Ecker's case was the first involuntary manslaughter case in Summit County involving heroin or fentanyl to be decided by a jury trial. Since 2013, 22 defendants in Summit County Common Pleas Court have been convicted of involuntary manslaughter charges connected to heroin or fentanyl deaths.