



## MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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### **Prosecutor Curry: Dual approach to opioid addiction crisis means vigorous prosecution of those dealing deadly narcotics**

*Two recent convictions illustrate effort to gain lengthy sentences for dealing*

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that two recent, unrelated drug dealing convictions have resulted in significant sentences. Curry said the convictions and resulting sentences are the result of his office's proactive stance in holding accountable those who feed the drug epidemic and related overdoses. Both cases involve the dealing of drugs connected with the current addiction crisis, including heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

"As we collectively address the opioid epidemic, we must always be mindful of the distinction between those individuals who are battling addiction and those who are feeding the addiction," Prosecutor Curry stated. "While we fully support treatment options for those who are afflicted by opioid addiction, we will continue to take a hard stand by seeking lengthy sentences for the individuals who are distributing these lethal drugs in our community."

**Braxton Buford** was sentenced on October 10, 2017, to serve 30 years in the Indiana Department of Correction after pleading guilty to two charges of Dealing in a Narcotic Drug of 10 or more grams (Level 2 Felonies) related to two separate incidents. Based on the terms of an agreement, Buford received a sentence of 15 years on each charge to be served consecutively by law.

In the first incident, Buford was arrested on March 14, 2017, during a traffic stop by IMPD officers. Buford was driving the vehicle while his license was suspended. After a K-9 indicated the presence of narcotics in the vehicle, a search of the vehicle found 160 grams of fentanyl, 36 grams of cocaine, and 125 grams of methamphetamine. Buford had \$7,928 in cash on his person. During the sentencing hearing, the Court considered how many people could have overdosed from the 160 grams of fentanyl recovered during the traffic stop. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and often is mixed with heroin or cocaine with or without the user's knowledge in order to increase the drug's effect.

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After posting bond for the March 2017 arrest, Buford was again involved in a traffic stop on April 9, 2017, where drug paraphernalia was found in a back seat next to him. After being transported to the Arrestee Processing Center, Buford exited the transport vehicle and spit a baggie containing 33 grams of heroin into a trash can. The baggie and drugs were recovered by officers. Buford had \$3,321 on his person at the time of the April 9 arrest. His bond for the March 2017 arrest was then revoked by the Court on a motion by the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

In an unrelated matter, **Frank Dangerfield** was sentenced on October 6, 2017, to serve 26 years in the Indiana Department of Correction after a jury found him guilty of Dealing in a Narcotic Drug of 10 or more grams (Level 2 Felony) and being a Habitual Offender. Dangerfield was arrested on April 13, 2016, while in possession of 65 grams of heroin. IMPD detectives also seized a handgun, over \$7,000, and drug processing paraphernalia during the investigation.

Dangerfield was arrested after a nearly six-week investigation during which he had been identified as a suspected narcotics dealer based on information obtained by investigators. At the time of his April 2016 arrest, he was serving a sentence on Community Corrections for a prior Conspiracy to Commit Dealing Cocaine conviction.

While released on bond for this case, Dangerfield was charged and convicted in two separate felony domestic battery cases as well as an Invasion of Privacy case.