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July 17, 2019

PRESS RELEASE: FRANKLIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SECURES FIRST GUILTY VERDICT IN DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH CHARGE, FOLLOWING TODAY'S TRIAL

Today, a Franklin County Jury found a Spring Run man guilty of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, Delivery of Schedule II Controlled Substance and Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility. Shannon R. Watts is the first person convicted at trial in Franklin County of the charge of Drug Delivery Resulting in Death. The charges stem from the 2016 overdose of Allen Chapman, after he ingested prescription pills provided by Watts. According to testimony, the victim had among other factors which led to his death, a lethal amount of oxymorphone, an opioid Schedule II Controlled Substance.

"This is a landmark day in Franklin County's struggle with the Opioid Crisis," said Matthew D. Fogal, Franklin County District Attorney. "There were skeptics who thought that these cases couldn't be won. Those attitudes made the team work that much harder. I want to commend the Pennsylvania State Police, the Franklin County Drug Task Force and the members of the District Attorney's Office who have worked diligently to combat this crisis. Allen Chapman had a disease, and Shannon Watts preyed upon and profited from that sickness. Justice has been rendered FOR Allen Chapman and TO Shannon Watts."

RE: PRESS RELEASE: FRANKLIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SECURES FIRST GUILTY VERDICT IN DRUG DELIVERY RESULTING IN DEATH CHARGE, FOLLOWING TODAY'S TRIAL July 17, 2019







Shannon Watts

According to evidence presented at trial, Watts sold four opioid pills to Mr. Chapman on October 24, 2016. After snorting the pills, Mr. Chapman returned home and died the following morning. The members of the Pennsylvania State Police were able to quickly develop leads which led to controlled buys of additional pills from the Defendant.

After entry of the verdict, Judge Jeremiah Zook raised the Defendant's bail to \$100,000, and he was remanded into the custody of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for transport to the Franklin County Jail. Sentencing is scheduled for August 4, 2019.