



# Department of Justice

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## **PATASKALA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO GIVING MARIJUANA TO A MINOR AND OTHER DRUG CRIMES**

### *Videotaped child smoking pot*

COLUMBUS – Melvin Blevins, age 19, of Pataskala pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to a three count information charging him with conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms marijuana, possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and distribution of less than five grams of marijuana to a person under 21.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Anthony C. Marotta, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration; Jose Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, and Columbus Police Chief Walter Distelzweig announced the plea entered today before U.S. District Judge Michael Watson.

According to a statement of facts presented in court, Blevins was responsible for assisting Donald Dailey, the leader of a large-scale marijuana trafficking organization. On a number of occasions, from January 1, 2008 through March 14, 2008, Blevins and others assisted in unloading bails of marijuana at Dailey's house in Pataskala. Blevins assisted in unloading more than 1000 but less than 3000 kilograms of marijuana. On at least one occasion Blevins acted as counter-surveillance for Dailey, and followed an undercover agent investigating the case for an extended period of time.

In January of 2008 Blevins and Dailey's daughter videotaped themselves forcing a child of approximately one and a-half years old to inhale marijuana from a pipe.

On April 3, 2008 a .22 caliber revolver handgun and 14 dosage units of ecstasy (MDMA) was recovered from Blevins. Blevins told detectives that the pills found in his pocket were in fact ecstasy (MDMA), and that he did not use them, but that he did sell them.

"Blevins faces at least 15 years imprisonment," Lockhart said. "The plea agreement outlines sentences of at least ten years and up to life imprisonment for the drug trafficking conspiracy. Possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime carries a punishment of five years imprisonment, consecutive to any other time served. Providing marijuana to someone under 21 is punishable by up to two years imprisonment."

Agents arrested Blevins on April 7, 2008. He has been in custody since his arrest. A federal grand jury indicted him on May 29, 2008.

Judge Watson will set a date for sentencing.

Dailey pleaded guilty on March 17, 2009 to operating a continuing criminal enterprise.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by DEA and IRS CI agents, and Columbus Police narcotics officers, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. DeVillers, who is prosecuting the case.

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