



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE FOR VAN ZANDT WOMAN

(Tyler, Texas) A Van Zandt woman has been sentenced to 120 months in federal prison for manufacturing and dealing methamphetamine. U.S. District Judge William Steger sentenced **DARLENE WHITTINGTON** this morning for Conspiracy to Manufacture, Distribute, and Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, Whittington, 38, and co-defendant, Scott James Davis, 36, were arrested last fall at their residence in Grand Saline with approximately 5 grams of methamphetamine as well as paraphernalia used to manufacture the drug. An investigation by the DEA, DEA Task Force, Canton Police Department and the Smith County Sheriff's Office revealed the couple had been involved in numerous incidents of manufacturing and selling methamphetamine since at least the summer of 2002.

U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig says this case illustrates the growing problem with methamphetamine, "The manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine has become our number one drug problem in East Texas. It is a highly addictive drug and causes violent and dangerous behavior. This case shows if you get involved with methamphetamine, be prepared to spend many years behind bars."

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Co-defendant Davis was sentenced on June 28, 2004 to 115 months in federal prison. He pleaded guilty to Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Ann Cozby prosecuted the case.

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