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46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney
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Date: August 3, 2023

**JURY CONVICTS ANOTHER DRUG DEALER OF
DEALING IN A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE RESULTING IN DEATH**

Muncie Indiana – Today a Delaware County jury deliberated for a little under 2 hours before convicting Joel D. West (DOB 2/25/1991) of Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. A copy of the Affidavit for Probable Cause for Arrest is Attached. The Honorable Linda Ralu Wolf, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 3 set sentencing for August 28, 2023. Pursuant to Indiana law, a Level 1 Felony is punishable by 20 – 40 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.



Joel D. West

After the verdict was returned, Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Hoffman said “This marks the sixth time a Delaware County jury has found a defendant guilty of Dealing Resulting in Death. Our community is speaking loud and clear – if you deal drugs and one of your customers dies as result you will be held accountable. The days of drug dealers preying on the weak and vulnerable are long gone. We will continue to aggressively prosecute these crimes. I am proud of Chief Deputy Zach Craig and Deputy Prosecutor Andrew Ramirez, Prosecutor Investigators Heather Stanley and Alyssa Sorrell as well as Yorktown Police Officer Erin Gross for their hard work and dedication in this case.”

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STATE OF INDIANA)
DELAWARE COUNTY)

IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURTS

2019 TERM

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

COMES NOW, Blake Barnard , a police officer of the Yorktown Police Department, and being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that the following described person was arrested, without Warrant, upon the charge(s) and circumstances hereinafter stated, and makes this affidavit for the purpose of establishing probable cause for said arrest.

NAME OF ARRESTEE: Joel David West CASE REPORT #: 19-01-0031

ADDRESS OF ARRESTEE: 1004 E. 8th St. Muncie, IN 47302

ARRESTEE DATE OF BIRTH: 02/25/1991

DATE OF ARREST: 02/21/19 TIME OF ARREST: 8:45 PM

CHARGE 1: Dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death Murder a Level- 1 Felony

The basis and reasons why this officer believes that said arrestee committed the aforesaid offense (s) are as follows:

On January 28th, 2019 Chief St. John and I, Officer Blake Barnard of the Yorktown Police Department began an investigation into the death of John "Jake" Adams. According to the autopsy Adams cause of death was acute mixed drug intoxication.

Investigators were able to obtain Adams' cell phone and conduct an investigation of Adams' conversations prior to his death. On January 16th, 2019 at approximately 3:47 PM Adams began a conversation with Joel West via Facebook Messenger. The conversation starts by West messaging Adams "I got some". Adams asks West if he would be willing to trade for Xanax or be willing to front him (meaning he would pay West at a later date) West refused both offers. They later settle on an amount of .15 mg for fifteen dollars and West agreed to come to Adams residence at 1809 S. Oakdale Rd. Yorktown, IN 47396 to deliver the drug. Through the conversation Adams had with West it appeared that West sold/supplied the drug Adams consumed the morning of January 17th, 2019 that ultimately lead to Adams death.

Investigators spoke to multiple witnesses that stated they observed West come inside the residence of Adams on the night of January 16, 2019. They also advised Adams and West went to Adams' bedroom for approximately 10-15 minutes, and then West left with one of the witnesses around 3:00 AM on 1/17/2019.

On February 21, 2019, investigators interviewed Joel West. After being advised of his Miranda Rights, West admitted that he sold John "Jake" Adams "ice" (Methamphetamine) on the night prior to Adams' death. West also admitted that he did have a conversation with Adams' through Facebook messenger prior to going to Adams' residence that night.

File By Feb. 28, 2019 @ 8:30 AM

Blake L. Barnard #111

STATE OF INDIANA)
)
DELAWARE COUNTY)

IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURTS

2019 TERM

DATED: OFFICER:

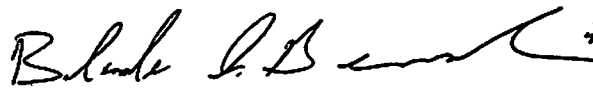
JUDICIAL DETERMINATION

THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING A JUDICIAL OFFICER OF DELAWARE COUNTY, AND HAVING REVIEWED THE FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT, NOW DETERMINES THAT PROBABLE CAUSE EXISTED FOR THE ARREST OF SAID ARRESTEE AND NOW FIXES BAIL IN THE PENAL SUM OF \$50,000.00 cash only.

DATED: 2/22/19 SIGNED:  TITLE: Judge CB4

NAME OF ARRESTEE: Joel David West

CASE REPORT #: 19-01-0031

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