



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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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: July 31, 2024

**CONVICTED DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 41 YEARS IN PRISON FOR
DEALING RESULTING IN DEATH AND IN A SEPARATE CASE
ANOTHER DRUG DEALER CONVICTED OF DEALING RESULTING IN
DEATH LOSES HIS APPEAL**

Muncie Indiana – Earlier today, the Honorable John M. Feick, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 4 sentenced Ricky L. Taylor (DOB 8/27/1999) to 41 years in prison. On June 18, 2024, after a 3 day trial, Judge Feick found Taylor guilty of Count 1, Aiding, Inducing, or Causing, Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 1 Felony, Count 2, Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony, and Count 4, Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony. The Judge found Taylor not guilty of one (1) other charge. A copy of the Affidavit of Probable Cause for Arrest that was originally filed with the case and the Court's verdict is attached. After today's sentencing hearing, Deputy Prosecutor Andrew Ramirez said that "the evidence at trial indicated that there were two victims: one age 18 and the other age 17. Each of the victims had only used ½ of a pill. Taylor was wholesaling these pills he admitted that he knew the pills contained Fentanyl. The evidence demonstrated that there were two specific instances where the Taylor received 700 and 1,800 respectively pills from his supplier. These two instances were separated by only 1 week. Delaware County is most definitely safer with a drug dealer like Ricky Taylor off the streets. Taylor marks the 12th defendant who has been convicted of and sentenced for dealing in a narcotic drug resulting in death in Delaware County."



Ricky Taylor

Also today the Indiana Court of Appeals rejected Derrick W. Clark's (DOB 3/11/1974) appeal to overturn his conviction. On November 1, 2023, a Delaware County jury deliberated for 2 before convicting Clark of Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. Clark was subsequently sentenced to 30 years in prison. Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney said that "Today's sentencing in the Taylor case and the appellate decision in the Clark case demonstrate our unwavering devotion to prosecute and hold drug dealers accountable in Delaware County: especially when the poison they deal kills another person. I want to thank Chief Deputy Prosecutor Zach Craig and Deputy Prosecutor Andrew Ramirez, Prosecutor's Office investigators Heather Stanley and Alyssa Sorrell, and Delaware County Sheriff's Deputy Matt Kubiak for their hard work and dedication in this case.



Derrick Clark

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2749

STATE OF INDIANA)
DELAWARE COUNTY) IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURT SYSTEM
2023 TERM

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

COMES NOW: Coffman, Steven, a police officer of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, 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 herein after stated, and makes this affidavit for the purpose of establishing probable cause for said arrest.

NAME OF ARRESTEE: Ricky L Taylor D.O.B. 08/27/1999

ADDRESS OF ARRESTEE: 720 W Centennial Ave. C37, Muncie, IN 47303

DATE OF ARREST: 11/15/2023 TIME OF ARREST: 2:30 AM PM

CHARGES:	<u>aiding, causing, or inducing dealing in a controlled substance resulting in death</u>	a class	<u>1</u>	Felony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>Dealing in cocaine or narcotic drug</u>	a class	<u>5</u>	Felony	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	a class	_____	Felony	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	a class	_____	Felony	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	a class	_____	Felony	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor	<input type="checkbox"/>
	_____	a class	_____	Felony	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor	<input type="checkbox"/>

The basis and reasons why this officer believes that said arrestee committed the aforesaid offense(s) in Delaware County, State of Indiana, are as follows:

On 9/16/2023, Deputies from the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, responded to a residence on 1304 E 400 S, Muncie, IN, in response to an unresponsive juvenile. A Daleville Police Officer, Officer John Miller, first arrived on scene. According to his observations, the juvenile victim (V1) was cold to the touch. I, Detective Coffman, was the on-call investigator during this time period and responded to the scene due to him possibly dying of an apparent overdose.

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and belief.

DATE: 11-15-2023 Officer: [Signature] 577

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 - cash only

Dated: 11/16/23 Signed: [Signature] Title: Col Judge

PRE-INITIAL HEARING INFORMATION

Pre-initial Hearing Date: 11/17 Charges to be filed by Date: 11/22 Time: _____

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NARRATIVE CONTINUED:

The cause of death was later confirmed in a toxicology report. According to the results of the report, V1 died of acute fentanyl and cocaine intoxication. I later observed a partial blue pill laying on a small table next to V1's bed during my initial investigation. I seized the pill after a consent to search form was signed by the homeowner. Through my training and experience, I suspected this tablet to be a pressed fentanyl tablet. The pill was imprinted with 'M' on one side and '30' on the other side.

According to witnesses and the family, V1 was working at the Muncie Drag Strip (racetrack) the night before (9/15/2023) and was seen interacting with other juveniles while working. It was later learned one of the juveniles (suspect 1) who was with V1 at the Drag Strip had sold a single blue M30 pill to V1 for \$10.00. An interview conducted with S1 confirmed this information to be true. S1 stated he sold a single blue M30 pill for \$10.00.

During the interview, S1 admitted to buying a supply of 15 blue M30 pills from another individual, Ricky Taylor for \$4.00 apiece. S1 stated he did not remember the date he bought the blue M30 pills from Ricky when asked. S1 was asked how he knew this pill came from Ricky. S1 stated Ricky is the only person he buys the blue M30 pills from.

Ricky Taylor was arrested for several outstanding warrants on 11/9/2023 and an interview was conducted with Ricky. I advised and read Ricky his Miranda Warning Rights. Ricky signed he understood his rights and signed a waiver to his rights and agreed to be interviewed. Ricky stated he has known S1 for approximately 6 months. During that time Ricky admitted to selling blue M30 pills to S1 on multiple occasions. Ricky stated in some of the exchanges for the M30 pills, he would receive property from S1 instead of cash. Ricky stated S1 would usually ask for approximately \$20-\$30 worth of M30 pills. Ricky said he sold them for \$3.00 or \$4.00.

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURT SYSTEM
DELAWARE COUNTY) 2023 TERM

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NARRATIVE CONTINUED:

Ricky said he and S1 used Facebook Messenger to communicate the transaction. A search warrant for records from Facebook was obtained. A message obtained from Facebook sent by S1 on 9/10/2023 to Ricky, was "u still got the same ones as last time". I asked Ricky if this message specifically was in reference to blue M30 pills. Ricky replied yes.

I asked Ricky if he was still selling M30 pills. Ricky said he was still actively selling pills prior to his warrant arrest on 11/9/2023. Ricky stated if someone was looking for 1,000 pills who couldn't get them, he would be able to get them (M30pills).

Ricky is being charged with the following offenses:

County 1 – Aiding, inducing, or causing Dealing a Controlled Substance Resulting in death, a Level 1 Felony, due to Ricky supplying the illegal narcotics to S1, which were then sold to V1; and

Count 2 – Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony, due to Ricky selling illegal narcotics to S1.

I affirm under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and beliefs.

/S/ Steve Coffman 577