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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney  
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Date: December 19, 2024

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

*Muncie Indiana* – Today a Delaware County jury deliberated for approximately 1 hour before convicting Jaxon W. Engle (DOB 5/23/2006) of:

- Count 1: Aiding, Inducing, or Causing Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony.
- Count 2: Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony.
- Count 3: Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony.

A copy of the Order on Petition for Waiver of Juvenile Jurisdiction which address Probable Cause for Arrest that was originally filed with the case is attached. Two (2) separate people lost their lives as a result of the Defendant's actions. The Honorable Judi L. Calhoun, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 1 set sentencing for January 14, 2025 at 1:30 PM. Pursuant to Indiana law, a Level 1 Felony is punishable by 20 – 40 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine and a Level 5 Felony is punishable by 1 – 6 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

After the verdict was returned, Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Hoffman said "This marks the 10<sup>th</sup> time a Delaware County jury has found a defendant guilty of Dealing Resulting in Death Our community, through our jury system, is speaking loud and clear – if you deal drugs and one of your customers dies as result you will be held accountable. A total of 14 people have been convicted of Dealing Resulting in Death in Delaware County: 10 by jury, 2 by bench trials and 2 by guilty pleas. 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 Diane Frye, Prosecutor Investigators Cami Stanley and Alyssa Sorrell as well as Muncie Police Department Detective Mariah Copeland and Delaware County Sheriff's Office Detectives Steve Coffman and John Branson for their hard work and dedication in this case. In particular, I want to recognize Chief Deputy Prosecutor Zach Craig for going above and beyond the call of duty to attain justice. Zach works night and day to seek justice for the families of the deceased in these cases."

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STATE OF INDIANA	)	IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT NO. 2
	)	SS:
COUNTY OF DELAWARE	)	
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	CAUSE NO.: 18C02-2309-JD-000189
JAXON WILLIAM ENGLE,	)	18C02-2311-JD-000203
A Child Alleged to be a	)	
Delinquent Child.	)	

**ORDER ON PETITION FOR WAIVER OF JUVENILE JURISDICTION**

Comes now the State of Indiana, having filed its Petition for Waiver of Jurisdiction, and hearing was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023. The State of Indiana appears by Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Diane Frye. The juvenile, Jaxon Engle, appears in person and by his counsel, Ana Quirk. Juvenile Probation appears in person by Mary Addison. The juvenile’s grandparents/guardians, Harry and Linda Engle, appear in person. Witnesses were sworn, and evidence was heard and concluded. The Court now finds as follows:

1. On September 29, 2023, the State of Indiana filed a *Petition Alleging Delinquency* under 18C02-2309-JD-189 alleging that Jaxon Engle committed the following:

**Count 1:** Fraud, I.C. 35-43-5-2(a)(2)(D), a Level 6 Felony if committed by an adult;  
**Count 2:** Counterfeiting, I.C. 35-43-5-2(a)(2)(D), a Level 6 Felony if committed by an adult; and  
**Count 3:** Theft, I.C. 35-43-4-2(a), a Class A Misdemeanor if committed by an adult.

2. On November 9, 2023, the State of Indiana filed a *Petition Alleging Delinquency* under 18C02-2311-JD-203 alleging that Jaxon Engle committed the following:

**Count 1:** Aiding, Inducing or Causing Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, I.C. 35-42-1-1.5(a) and I.C. 35-41-2-4, a Level 1 Felony if committed by an adult;  
**Count 2:** Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, I.C. 35-42-1-1.5(a), a Level 1 Felony if committed by an adult;  
**Count 3:** Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, I.C. 35-42-1-1.5(a) and I.C. 35-41-5-2, a level 1 Felony if committed by an adult;  
**Count 4:** Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, I.C. 35-48-4-1(a)(1), a Level 5 Felony if committed by an adult; and  
**Count 5:** Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, I.C. 35-48-4-1(a)(1), a Level 5 Felony if committed by an adult.

3. On November 14, 2023, the State of Indiana filed its *Petition for Waiver of Jurisdiction* in both cases seeking waiver of juvenile jurisdiction. In 18C02-2309-JD-189, the State seeks waiver pursuant to I.C. 31-30-3-2. In 18C02-2311-JD-203, the State seeks waiver pursuant to I.C. 31-30-3-5.

4. The State seeks waiver of juvenile jurisdiction under Indiana Code 31-30-3-2 in 18C02-2309-JD-189. The burden is on the State to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that Jaxon was at least fourteen (14) years or older when he was charged with an act which if committed by an adult would be a felony, which is either 1) heinous or aggravated with greater weight given to acts against the person than to acts against property, or 2) part of a repetitive pattern of delinquent acts even though less serious; that there is probable cause to believe that Jaxon committed the act; that Jaxon is beyond rehabilitation under the juvenile justice system; and that it is in the best interests of the safety and welfare of the community that Jaxon stand trial as an adult.
5. The State seeks waiver of juvenile jurisdiction under Indiana Code 31-30-3-5 in 18C02-2311-JD-203. The burden is on the State to prove by a preponderance of the evidence 1) that Jaxon was at least sixteen (16) years old when he was charged with an act which committed by an adult would be a Level 1 felony, a Level 2 felony, a Level 3 felony, or a Level 4 felony, except a felony defined by I.C. 35-48-4; and 2) that there is probable cause to believe that Jaxon committed the act. In order to avoid the presumption of waiver under I.C. 31-30-3-5, Jaxon must prove that it is in his best interest and that of the safety and welfare of the community for him to remain within the juvenile justice system.
6. Jaxon Engle was seventeen (17) years of age when said offenses were allegedly committed, his date of birth being May 23, 2006 and the date of the alleged incidents being on or about September 4, 2023 (18C02-2309-JD-189) and July 13-14, 2023; September 14-16, 2023; and June 1, 2023 – November 1, 2023 (18C02-2311-JD-203).
7. The State of Indiana has established that there is probable cause to believe that Jaxon Engle committed the alleged offenses of Fraud, Counterfeiting and Theft. The Court found probable cause and authorized the *Petition Alleging Delinquency* on October 12, 2023.
8. The State of Indiana has established that there is probable cause to believe that Jaxon Engle committed the alleged offenses of Aiding, Inducing or Causing Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, Dealing in a Narcotic Drug x2. The Court found probable cause at a detention hearing held on November 3, 2023 and authorized the *Petition Alleging Delinquency* on November 16, 2023.
9. The State of Indiana has established that the alleged acts in 18C02-2309-JD-189 are part of a repetitive pattern of delinquent acts. Jaxon has had contact with law enforcement and the juvenile justice system in Delaware County, Madison County, Henry County, Jay County and Blackford County regarding allegations of delinquency. He has been the subject of juvenile delinquency referrals for habitual disobedience, truancy, resisting law enforcement x2, theft, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia, battery, and leaving home without permission. He was previously adjudicated to be a delinquent child in Delaware County under 18C02-2201-JD-000004 in August of 2021 for resisting law enforcement while using a vehicle and reckless driving. In addition to the instant two pending delinquency cases in Delaware County, Jaxon has a pending delinquency case in Blackford County with allegations including conspiracy to commit

dealing in methamphetamine, trafficking with an inmate, criminal mischief, strangulation and domestic battery. There is no question that the acts alleged in 18C02-2309-JD-189 are part of a repetitive pattern of delinquent acts.

10. The State of Indiana has established that the alleged acts in 18C02-2311-JD-203 would include three (3) Level 1 Felonies if committed by an adult, and that Jaxon was over the age of sixteen (16) when said acts were committed.
11. The State of Indiana has established, pursuant to I.C. 31-30-3-5, that it is not in the best interests of the child and of the safety and welfare of the community for Jaxon to remain within the juvenile justice system. The State of Indiana has also established that it is in the best interests of the safety and welfare of the community that Jaxon stand trial as an adult, pursuant to I.C. 31-30-2-2.
12. Under 18C02-2309-JD-189, Jaxon is accused of purchasing a computer off of Facebook Marketplace with counterfeit \$100 bills on or about September 4, 2023. He then sold the computer to an adult, Ricky Taylor, for cash and pressed blue pills, known as "M30s," which commonly contain fentanyl. Jaxon had allegedly been purchasing M30s from Ricky Taylor since June 2023. Jaxon is then accused under 18C02-2311-JD-211 of selling one of the M30 fentanyl pills to a juvenile, K.L., on or about September 14, 2023 at the Muncie Dragway. K.L. was found by his sister deceased in his bed the following day. Forensic toxicology reports indicated a level of fentanyl that is associated with comatose and fatal case reports attributed to the abuse of fentanyl. K.L.'s cause of death was identified as acute fentanyl and cocaine intoxication.
13. Jaxon is also accused under 18C02-2311-JD-203 of aiding, inducing or causing dealing in a controlled substance resulting in the death of Javin Nichols, an 18-year old recent high school graduate. It is alleged that Jaxon sold two of the M30 pills to Javin on or about July 13, 2023. Javin was found by his brother deceased in his bed the following day. Forensic toxicology reports indicated a level of fentanyl that is associated with comatose and fatal case reports attributed to the abuse of fentanyl. Javin's cause of death was identified as acute fentanyl intoxication.
14. Jaxon has admitted that he has used M30s, or fentanyl, himself, and that he previously almost died from his use of illicit substances. Jaxon admitted to purchasing M30s from Ricky Taylor, and he admitted to selling one M30 to K.L. the night before his death.
15. Through the Delaware County Juvenile Probation Department, Jaxon has previously been referred services, including substance use assessment disorder, homebased casework, counseling, etc. through Centerstone Mental Health & Addiction Services of Indiana. Jaxon has not participated in any offered services. Jaxon has been offered opportunities to participate in Muncie YouthBuild by Eastern Indiana Works, a community initiative that targets 16-24 year olds in the Muncie area to provide first-hand training and experience in construction, along with the opportunity to achieve a high school equivalency through Muncie Community Schools and post-completion career development services. Jaxon, who is not participating in any educational program and not employed, declined to participate in the YouthBuild program.

- 16. Mary Addison, a probation officer with the Delaware County Juvenile Probation Department, supervised Jaxon during his formal probation from March 2022 until September 2022. Ms. Addison testified that Jaxon has been offered all rehabilitative opportunities through not only Delaware County, but the other county juvenile justice systems with which Jaxon has had involvement. The Court acknowledges that although Jaxon has an extensive history of involvement in the Indiana juvenile justice system, he does not have extensive adjudications of delinquency. Evidence of prior delinquency adjudications and/or informal dispositions is not a prerequisite to a finding that Jaxon is beyond rehabilitation in the juvenile justice system. *K.M. v. State*, 804 N.E.2d 305, 309 (Ind. Ct. App. 2004). Additionally, given the serious nature of the pending allegations 18C02-2311-JD-203, 18C02-2309-JD-189 and the pending case in Blackford County under 05C01-2311-JD-000120, rehabilitative options within the juvenile justice system are considerably limited.
- 17. The safety and welfare of the community is not served by maintaining Jaxon in the juvenile justice system.
- 18. The court hereby grants the State’s petition to waive the juvenile, Jaxon Engle, to adult court in both 18C02-2309-JD-189 and 18C02-2311-JD-211.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** by the Court that this Court waives its jurisdiction in this case. The Sheriff of Delaware County shall maintain Jaxon Engle in the Delaware County Juvenile Detention Center where he shall be held for further proceedings in the Delaware Circuit Court No. 1. **In the cause under 18C02-2309-JD-189, bail is fixed in the amount of \$12,500 (Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) surety or cash in the defendant’s name. In the cause under 18C02-2311-JD-203, bail is fixed in the amount of \$160,000 cash only.**

SO ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_ 12/4/2023 \_\_\_\_\_.



Amanda L. Yonally, Juvenile Magistrate  
Delaware Circuit Court No. 2

Distribution:  
Prosecutor’s Office  
Ana Quirk, attorney for Jaxon Engle  
Juvenile Probation – MA  
Harry & Linda Engle, guardians