



**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: June 18, 2024

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

Muncie Indiana – Earlier today, the Honorable John M. Feick, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 4 convicted Ricky L. Taylor (DOB 8/27/1999) of Aiding, Inducing, or Causing Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. On June 10, 11, and 12 Judge Feick presided over a bench trial and at the conclusion of the presentation of evidence and argument, took the matter under advisement. Today, 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. Judge Feick set sentencing for July 17, 2024. 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.



Ricky Taylor

After the verdict was returned, Delaware County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Andrew Ramirez, who prosecuted the case, said “I am proud to announce that a large supplier of counterfeit fentanyl tablets has been convicted of Aiding, Inducing or Causing Dealing a Narcotic Drug Resulting in Death for his role in the chain of distribution of fentanyl in Delaware County. As far as we are aware, this may be the first time that an upper-level supplier has been held accountable for an overdose death related to his distribution network. This marks the 12th drug dealer who has been convicted in Delaware County of Dealing Resulting in Death.”

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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

STATE OF INDIANA)	*	DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT #4
)SS:	*	
DELAWARE COUNTY)	*	2024 TERM
		*	
STATE OF INDIANA		*	CAUSE NO. 18C04-2311-F1-16
		*	
VS		*	
		*	
RICKY L. TAYLOR		*	

ORDER

Be it remembered that heretofore on the 10th, 11th, and 12th days of June, 2024, the State of Indiana appeared by Chief Deputy Prosecutor Zachary Craig and Deputy Prosecutor Andrew Ramirez, and the Defendant appeared in person, having been produced by the Sheriff and with counsel, Peter Capofari and Angelus Kocoshis, for a Bench Trial.

Be it further remembered that on said dates, witnesses were sworn and evidence was heard and concluded, but the Court not being duly and sufficiently advised in the premises, took this matter under advisement.

And now, on this date, the Court having reviewed the testimony, pleadings, and exhibits, including reviewing the redacted interview of the Defendant twice, and being duly and sufficiently advised in the premises, now finds the Defendant GUILTY of Count 1, Aiding, Inducing, or Causing Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony, GUILTY of Count 2, Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony, NOT GUILTY of Count 3, Aiding, Inducing, or Causing Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony, and GUILTY of Count 4, Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony and Judgment of Conviction is so entered accordingly.

The Court further finds that a Pre-Sentence Investigation be prepared by the Probation Department and hereby sets this matter for sentencing on the 17th day of July, 2024.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of June, 2024.



 John M. Feick, Judge
 Delaware Circuit Court No. 4

Distribution:
 State of Indiana
 Public Defender