



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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Press Release

Manslaughter Charges Filed in Fentanyl Death

On April 25, 2022, the Boulder County Drug Task Force (BCDTF) began investigating a fentanyl death that occurred earlier that day.

The BCDTF investigation identified Terrelle Lucero (DOB: 1/23/97) as the individual who sold fentanyl to the victim. As part of their investigation, the BCDTF sought to engage in a controlled buy of fentanyl from this defendant.

On May 26, 2022, law enforcement officers contacted this defendant at the location of the controlled buy. Law enforcement officers placed him into custody. In a search of his person and his vehicle, officers found a small black scale with white residue and a Glock 30 .45 caliber handgun. Upon being searched at the jail, over seventy-five (75) fentanyl pills were found on the defendant's person.

On June 1, 2022, formal charges were filed by the District Attorney's Office including Possession (DF4), Possession with Intent to Distribute (DF3 & DF4), Possession of a Weapon by a Previous Offender (F5), two Special Drug Offender charges (DF 1), and other related charges. The Special Drug Offender charge includes a possible sentence of 8 - 32 years imprisonment.

In addition, the District Attorney's Office filed a charge of Manslaughter (F4) because the defendant is alleged to have caused the death of the victim. The additional charge of Manslaughter relates to the alleged sale of fentanyl by the defendant to the victim, thereby resulting in the victim's death.

Under the law at the time of the victim's death, the defendant faces a presumptive sentence of 4 – 12 years in state prison for Manslaughter. If this death had occurred after House Bill 22-1326 went into effect, this dealer would have faced a presumptive sentence of 8 – 32 years in state prison for causing the death of the victim. (With the Special Drug Offender charge in this case, that sentencing range remains possible.)

This office strongly supported and participated in the work on the fentanyl bill, in part, because of the need for stronger penalties for those that distribute fentanyl and, especially, those that cause deaths.

The case is set for a Preliminary Hearing on June 23, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "I greatly appreciate the hard work and skill that the Boulder County Drug Task Force poured into this investigation. Because of their efforts, this investigation quickly resulted in the filing of criminal charges. Fentanyl dealers who seek to profit from the addiction of others should be held fully accountable."

As in every criminal case, these charges are merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.