







Federal Drug Law

- 21 U.S. Code § 844 - It shall be unlawful for any person **knowingly** or **intentionally** to **possess** a **controlled substance** unless such substance was obtained directly, or pursuant to a valid prescription or order, from a practitioner, while acting in the course of his professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by this subchapter or subchapter II of this chapter.

Conspiracy

- 21 U.S. Code § 846 - Attempt and conspiracy
Any person who **attempts** or **conspires** to commit any offense defined in this subchapter shall be **subject to the same penalties** as those prescribed for the offense, the commission of which was the object of the attempt or conspiracy.

Elements for Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A) and 846

The crime of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance has four essential elements, which are:

- on or before the dates charged in the indictment, **two or more persons** reached an agreement or came to an understanding to **distribute a controlled substance**;
- the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement or understanding, **either at the time it was first reached or at some later time while it was still in effect**;
- at the time the defendant joined in the agreement or understanding, **he/she knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding**; and
- the agreement or understanding involved an amount of **500 grams** or more of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

Arrest Questions



Questioning

- ▣ Do you use sell/distribute drugs ?
 - When did you start? How did you get started?
 - Prices/weights/dates [*Dates and Weights*]
 - Average amount by week?
 - Source of Supply (SOS)
- ▣ Financials
 - What was your profit?
 - Do you owe currently?
 - How did you pay? (venmo, cashapp)

Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering

Elements for Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering

18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1) (A)(i)

➤ The crime of conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering has four essential elements, which are:

- (1) Conducts or attempts to conduct a financial transaction
- (2) Knowing that the property involved in such a financial transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity
- (3) Which in fact involves the proceeds of specified unlawful activity
- (4) While acting with the intent to promote the carrying on of the specified unlawful activity

Money Laundering Elements Definitions

- **Some form of unlawful activity:** includes the person who knows that the property involved represented proceeds of any activity that is a felony under state or federal law
- **Specified unlawful activity:** includes distribution of a controlled substance or a conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance
- **Transaction:** includes the purchase, sale, transfer, delivery or other disposition
- **Financial transaction:** includes anything that affects interstate commerce (like distribution of controlled substances) involving a monetary instrument or transfer of title of any vehicle
- **Monetary instrument:** includes US currency, personal checks, money orders, etc.









Questioning

- ▣ Assets
 - *Where did money go? (cash, purchases)*
 - *Did SOS or others brag about assets?*
 - *How did you conceal assets/income?*

- ▣ Weapons
 - *What weapons did you possess?*
 - *Why did you have weapons?*
 - *Who were you scared of hurting?*

Questioning

- ▣ Employment?
 - *Who do you work for?*
 - *How long have you worked there?*
 - *Salary?*
 - *SOS employed?*

- ▣

II. Case management and information documentation

Interview Sample

SYNOPSIS: On December 3, 2015, I was in Laclede County Missouri conducting a narcotics investigation. As a result of this investigation, I interviewed Tamra Michelle Brown in reference to conspiracy to distribute crystal methamphetamine in Laclede and surrounding Missouri counties.

1. During the afternoon hours of December 3, 2015, I interviewed Tamra Michelle Brown, date of birth July 20, 1974, at her request, in regards to the conspiracy to distribute crystal methamphetamine in Laclede County. During the interview, T. Brown advised there were numerous individuals conspiring together to distribute large quantities of crystal methamphetamine in and around the Lebanon, Missouri area.

2. T. Brown stated she had used methamphetamine on and off for numerous years but in March of 2015, she started distributing crystal methamphetamine for her estranged husband, Jerry Lee Brown, date of birth September 20, 1972. She stated in March, 2015, she started receiving one-eighth (1/8) ounces from J. Brown and distributed it herself to individuals in the Lebanon area and the quantities went up to one (1) to two (2) ounces approximately two (2) to three (3) times a week. She stated she was dealing ounces for approximately two (2) months. T. Brown stated J. Brown was receiving large quantities of crystal methamphetamine from an individual introduced to her as "Mike" or "Mikoy". She stated J. Brown had spent time in prison with "Mike" who was identified as Michael Ryan Nevatt, date of birth July 17, 1989. She also stated J. Brown was conspiring with Travis Lee Bethel, date of birth April 27, 1971, to distribute crystal methamphetamine in the Laclede County area by assisting each other with large quantities of crystal methamphetamine when needed.

Interview

2. During the interview, T. Brown advised she was distributing dealer quantities of crystal methamphetamine to the following individuals:

Christina Elizabeth Shafer, date of birth January 14, 1981, purchased approximately 3.5 grams from her no less than twenty-five (25) times since April, 2015.

Destiny Leann Rector, date of birth August 29, 1988, purchased approximately 3.5 grams for one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) from her no less than ten (10) times since May 2015.

Michael Eldon Boggs, date of birth March 30, 1988, purchased approximately 3.5 grams from her for two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Boggs was distributing one (1) ounce every one (1) to two (2) days since May 2015.

Proffer Reports

DETAILS

1. On May 19, 2016, TFO JD Roberts, IA Amy Roberts, and SA Ryan Sprague interviewed Jerry BROWN under proffer at the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) in Kansas City, Missouri. Present with BROWN was his defense counsel, Jane Francis.
2. BROWN advised he was in the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) in 2013, because his parole was revoked on a 2009 marijuana charge. BROWN stated he was in Fulton prison when he met Mike NEVATT for the first time. BROWN was shown a photograph of NEVATT, and BROWN positively identified the photograph as Mike NEVATT. BROWN advised he got out of prison on October 1, 2014, and approximately a month later, BROWN started using methamphetamine. BROWN stated he was purchasing ½ ounces and full ounces of methamphetamine from Travis BETHEL, Sherry KEYS and Mark ROGERS.
3. BROWN advised he would purchase methamphetamine at BETHEL's house and shop, which were on the same piece of property. BROWN stated that BETHEL would have methamphetamine hidden all over the property, and even in cars on the property. Before BETHEL was introduced to NEVATT, the most methamphetamine BROWN saw BETHEL with at one time was one pound. BROWN advised that BETHEL's supplier was a guy named DAVE LNU, but possibly MILLER. BROWN stated that BETHEL told him he was getting approximately 10 to 15 pounds of methamphetamine from DAVE regularly.

Proffer Reports

4. BROWN advised during his time dealing with BETHEL, DAVE was put in jail for a parole violation and BETHEL needed a methamphetamine supplier. BROWN stated that at that time he knew NEVATT was selling one and two pounds of methamphetamine at a time, so he introduced NEVATT to BETHEL. BROWN advised he was to get one ounce of methamphetamine from BETHEL for each pound NEVATT sold him as payment for the introduction. BROWN stated that BETHEL told him he only bought a pound or a pound and a half. BROWN advised that later on, NEVATT told BROWN that BETHEL lied and really bought two pounds of methamphetamine. BROWN advised that after that, he started buying direct from NEVATT. BROWN stated he only bought from BETHEL one time after he started dealing with NEVATT, and it was because NEVATT was in Kansas City looking for Will LNU. BROWN advised that Will LNU had stolen drugs from NEVATT. BROWN was shown a photograph of William JOHNSON and BROWN positively identified the photograph as the person he referred to as "Will."
5. BROWN stated that he started getting ounces of methamphetamine from NEVATT and worked up to ¼ and ½ pounds. BROWN advised NEVATT was dealing with an unknown male in Springfield, Missouri, at that time, and the unknown male got "hot" (term used when drug dealers become known to law enforcement) for some reason. BROWN advised NEVATT worked as a mule (courier) on a couple loads for the Springfield male and developed a connection in Dallas, Texas. BROWN stated that after NEVATT got a connection, he started dealing with 15, 20, up to 25 pound loads of methamphetamine.

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Proffer Reports

6. BROWN was shown a photograph of Kenneth LAKE. BROWN positively identified LAKE as Kenny LAKE. BROWN advised he met LAKE one time with NEVATT when they were borrowing a car from BROWN. BROWN stated NEVATT told him LAKE and Kara BAZE were at hotel with \$90,000 when the police busted them. BROWN advised that NEVATT told him LAKE told the police the money belonged to NEVATT and that NEVATT was going to say the money was from gambling. BROWN stated the money was really LAKE's money to buy methamphetamine from NEVATT. BROWN advised that NEVATT told him just a week before the hotel incident that NEVATT was stopped with \$75,000 and the police seized the money.

Proffer Reports

9. BROWN advised that NEVATT supplied at least three people with large quantities of methamphetamine. BROWN stated BETHEL would purchase 10 to 15 pounds, and that BROWN was present at BETHEL's shop when at least two of these deliveries occurred. BROWN advised that BETHEL and NEVATT would negotiate on the price for hours and that BETHEL usually got the methamphetamine for \$7,000 a pound. BROWN stated BETHEL knew that NEVATT was fronted (given up front with the intention of being paid later) the methamphetamine in Texas, so BETHEL would try to re-negotiate after NEVATT would show up with the methamphetamine. BROWN advised that on one occasion, BROWN assisted NEVATT with trying to cut BETHEL's methamphetamine with MSM. BROWN stated that it ended up being too much work, so they stopped. BROWN advised that on that specific load, BETHEL purchased 10 pounds of methamphetamine from NEVATT.

III. Presentation and prosecution

Defendant by Defendant

Mike Nevatt	Kenny Lake	Scott Sands	Jerry Brown
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that would sell them pounds levels of methamphetamine. LAKE would author

Defendant by Defendant

A	B	C	D
REPORT/EVENT DATE	TYPE DRUG & WEIGHT	WHO GAVE INFO	EVENT
7/20/2015	454 grams	Interview of Johnson	Johnson advised the methamphetamine he had been caught with was taken from Mike Nevatt who he had been trafficking methamphetamine with
7/20/2015	160,000 grams	Interview of Johnson	Johnson advised he had trafficked 10 kilograms of methamphetamine from Texas to Missouri with Nevatt twice a week for the last two months.
			between the Mexicans and Lake. She claims that Nevatt doesn't have the meth on him very long because he gets it, and then provides the methamphetamine to Lake. I asked Baze if Nevatt had ever been involved in something like this before. She told me Nevatt had \$75,000 taken by the police not too long ago which was money Nevatt owed to the Mexicans. I explained that now we have seized another \$90,000 potentially and Baze responded by saying, "so he's basically
