



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

Jackson County Courthouse • 1001 Walnut • Third Floor • Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-7200 • FAX (618) 687-7215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael C. Carr, State's Attorney

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CARBONDALE MAN SENTENCED TO PROBATION FOR POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Carbondale resident, Brandon Rice-Edwards, was sentenced to probation for Possession of a Controlled Substance, following a plea of guilty. Edwards was sentenced on Monday, February 23, 2015, to 24 months of probation and to pay the costs of the case.

On September 27, 2013, at approximately 1:45 a.m., the Carbondale Police Department responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle traveling westbound on Walnut Street in Carbondale, Illinois. The officers were able to locate the vehicle and observed it fail to stop at the intersection of S. Lewis Lane and Walnut Street. The officers continued to follow the vehicle, watching for indications of impairment, and observed the vehicle straddle the center line on East Main Street in Carbondale. The officers then conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle.

Two occupants were located inside the vehicle. The driver was identified as the defendant, Brandon Rice-Edwards. Rice-Edwards showed strong indicators of impairment and was later arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. A search was then conducted of the vehicle. During that search, the officers found a pack of "Kool" cigarettes in the driver's side floor board. Inside the cigarettes, the officers found a plastic baggie containing two yellow pills. Initially, Rice-Edwards denied that the cigarettes were his. However, later Rice-Edwards asked the officers what they did with his cigarettes and requested a cigarette multiple times. There was only one package of cigarettes found in the vehicle. The pills found were later sent to the Illinois State Police Forensic Lab in Carbondale, Illinois, where lab tests revealed that the two pills were dihydrocodeinone, an unlawful substance in the State of Illinois.

On September 27, 2013, the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office charged Edwards with Possession of Controlled Substance, a Class 4 Felony; and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Class A Misdemeanor. For the Class 4 Felony, Edwards was eligible to receive 1 to 3 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with 1 year of Mandatory Supervised Release or up to 30 months of probation. For the Class A Misdemeanor, Edwards could have received 1 year in the Jackson County Jail with up to a \$2,500 fine or 24 months of probation.

On February 23, 2015, Edwards pled guilty to both Possession of Controlled Substance and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol. He was sentenced to serve 24 months of probation and to pay the costs of the case for the Possession of Controlled Substance. He received 12 months of court supervision for the Driving Under the Influence. He must pay a fine of \$1,620, and attend substance abuse classes and a victim impact panel.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department and the Illinois State Police. Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Brewster was responsible for the prosecution of this case.