



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NICHOLAS A. CERBONE, CARBONDALE, SENTENCE TO PRISON ON COCAINE CHARGES

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Nicholas A. Cerbone, age 35, Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced to five (5) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to the charge Manufacture/Delivery of Cocaine.

The charges arise from an incident on July 2, 2014, when, as part of an ongoing investigation, an agent of the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group purchased cocaine from David Ferrell. Further investigation revealed that Ferrell had received the cocaine from Nicholas Cerbone, who resided on Country Club Road in rural Jackson County. Officers obtained and executed a Search Warrant at the property on Country Club Road, where they recovered the official funds used to make the purchase from Ferrell. Present in the residence was Cerbone and Phillip Fann, who was arrested along with Cerbone.

Manufacture/Delivery of Cocaine, more than one (1) but less than fifteen (15) grams, is a Class One Felony. Cerbone was sentenced to serve five (5) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, followed by two (2) years of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Phillip Fann has pleaded guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Deliver, and was sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections for ten (10) years on August 11, 2016. David Ferrell has also entered a plea of guilty to the charge of Manufacture/Deliver of Cocaine and is awaiting sentencing.

The investigation was pursued by the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group. Assistant State's Attorney Mark Hamrock handled the prosecution.

*A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence. Except for statements that are necessary to inform the public of the nature and extent of the prosecutor's action and that serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose, by Supreme Court Rule, the State's Attorney is not allowed to make statements about pending cases or investigations which would pose a serious and imminent threat to the fairness of the proceeding. **Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor.** For a list of certain subjects which have been determined to pose such a threat to the fairness of the proceedings and for a list of subjects which do not, please see **Rule 3.6 Trial Publicity.** For any press release involving a case which has not yet been tried, please note that: **a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of the jury.***