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ACPO PRESS RELEASE

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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George Spears Sentenced to Ten Years in Prison

George E. Spears, 53, of Glouster, Ohio, appeared before Judge George P. McCarthy on January 20, 2015, and entered a change of plea to guilty to an indictment in case number 14CR0225 charging three (3) counts of Trafficking in Heroin, each felonies of the fourth degree; and one (1) count of Trafficking in Heroin, a felony of the fifth degree. Spears also entered a plea of guilty to a Bill of Information charging one (1) count of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, a felony of the first degree; (2) counts of Trafficking in Heroin, both felonies of the fifth degree; and one (1) count of Possession of Heroin, a felony of the third degree.

Judge McCarthy sentenced Spears to a total prison term of ten (10) years. Spears will be subject to a mandatory term of five (5) years of post-release control.

Prosecutor Blackburn stated that "Spears has engaged in a pattern of activity by obtaining Heroin from Columbus and trafficking the Heroin in exchange for sexual activity. One of Spears' co-conspirators is currently under indictment and one victim has already been referred to treatment."

These cases are the result of a joint effort between the Athens County Sheriff's Office and the Athens County Prosecutor's Office. Special thanks to the Glouster Police Department, Athens County Sheriff Deputies Jon Arnold, Doug Crites, John Kulchar and K-9 Ryder.

Prosecutor Blackburn further commented that "This investigation is another example of Sheriff Smith and my office's commitment to go after the sources spreading addiction and treating those addicted to drugs. Preying on addicts for sexual favors is just one of the many examples of dealers taking advantage of addicts. If you are addicted call us we will help you. We must stop the cycle."

Sheriff Smith said "One more supplier is off the street. We will continue to go after those who spread and expand this drug epidemic."

Co-conspirator intentionally left unnamed. No further information available at this time. Investigation remains open.