

EDITOR'S PICK

Man gets 11 years for wife's fatal heroin overdose in Spotsylvania

Keith Epps

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A Spotsylvania County man who supplied the heroin that resulted in his wife's fatal overdose last year was ordered Monday to serve 11 years in prison.

William John Moore, 40, had been scheduled for a trial Thursday in Spotsylvania Circuit Court. Instead, his attorney reached a deal with Commonwealth's Attorney Travis Bird on Monday in which a felony murder charge was reduced to voluntary manslaughter.

Moore was also convicted of distributing heroin as an accommodation and two counts of felony child neglect. He was sentenced to a total of 30 years in prison, with 19 years suspended.

According to the evidence, Moore and his wife, 28-year-old Ashley Moore, frequently used heroin in their home in the 11300 block of Pine Needle Court off Harrison Road. Bird said the couple was "shooting up" sometimes as much as four to five times a day.

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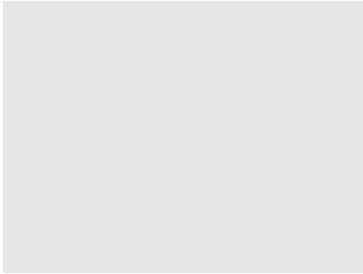
On Feb. 26, 2016, Moore called 911 after waking up and finding his wife not breathing. Police and rescue workers arrived and found heroin in plain view and nearly 20 used needles on the floor. Two syringes were loaded with heroin.

Two children, ages 10 and 2, were also in the house. Bird said authorities couldn't find any clean clothes to put on the children when they took them to stay with relatives.

Moore told police that he and his wife used heroin daily and that he had given her that day's dose. He admitted to selling drugs to support their expensive habit; Bird said the pair used a large amount of heroin every time.

“He didn’t want his wife to die,” Bird said. “But he provided the heroin that ended up killing her.”

Attorney Michael George represented Moore, who has been in the Rappahannock Regional Jail since shortly after his wife’s death.



William John Moore

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