



For Immediate Release
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Stark County Physician Found Guilty on 187 Counts

Canton, Ohio – On June 18, 2019, Frank Lazzerini, a physician who practiced in Jackson Township, was found guilty on 187 counts for operating a pill mill in which he prescribed opioids and other drugs without a legitimate medical purpose.

Notably, the jury found Lazzerini guilty of: 1) Involuntary Manslaughter, for his role in the death of Jamie Hayhurst; 2) Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, for using his medical office to run a criminal enterprise; 3) several counts of Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs and several Major Drug Offender Specifications, for prescribing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose; 4) several counts of Medicaid Fraud and Grand Theft for seeking inflated Medicaid reimbursements and stealing from Medicaid; and 5) several counts of Tampering with Records and Illegal Processing of Drug Documents.

"I commend the hard work done by Board staff in investigating this case with our state, local, and federal partners," said State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy Executive Director Steve Schierholt. "Through our collaboration, we have put a stop to criminal behavior that significantly impacted the citizens of this state."

The Board would like to thank the Stark County Prosecutor's Office, Jackson Township Police Department, Stark County Sheriff's Office Metro Narcotics Unit, Ohio Attorney General's Office, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, and State Medical Board of Ohio for their work on this case.

As a result of the jury's findings, Lazzerini faces several hundred years in prison. His sentencing is scheduled for July 3, 2019.

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