



**ROBERT A. COONEY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**

324 COURT STREET
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684-9958
(231) 922-4600 • FAX (231) 922-4698

PRESS RELEASE

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY OBTAINS
GUILTY VERDICT ON ALL CHARGES IN THE CASE OF PEOPLE v.
RONALD NORFLEET, A SIGNIFICANT HEROIN TRAFFICKER**

On June 3, 2015, a 13th Circuit Court jury reached a unanimous verdict convicting Ronald K. Norfleet of seven felony charges, including: one count of conspiracy to deliver heroin less than 50 grams, three counts of delivery of heroin less than 50 grams, one count of possession with the intent to deliver heroin less than 50 grams, and two counts of maintaining a drug house. The trial started on May 27, 2015 and lasted 4 days. During the course of the trial the Grand Traverse County Prosecutor's Office presented 18 witnesses and over 100 exhibits. Two of the witnesses were the co-Defendants Bryan and Alysha Nerg, who were Defendant's co-conspirators and acted as Defendant's drug runners. Both co-Defendants have pled guilty to drug charges, with Bryan Nerg given a twenty three month prison sentence, and Alysha Nerg a six month jail sentence. Other witnesses included Detectives assigned to the Traverse Narcotics Team ("TNT") who had been investigating Defendant for the last two years.

TNT's investigation resulted in Detectives executing two search warrants on February 13, 2015 at the Restwood Motel, where the Nergs were residing, and 802 Indian Trail, the home of Defendant. Detectives located in the Nergs motel room approximately 10 grams of heroin, a scale, cash, and packaging material commonly used in the distribution of heroin. TNT Detectives located in the home of Defendant a large sum of cash, b.b. guns that looked like real pistols, seven cell phones, and narcotics related packaging materials. TNT detectives also located in Defendant's home "buy funds" used in a controlled purchase of heroin from the Nergs' earlier on February 13th.

The Nergs testified at the trial that Defendant had arranged the heroin deliveries and supplied them with the heroin. The Nergs stated during the course of their direct and cross examination that Defendant arranged, coordinated and supplied hundreds of heroin sales occurring daily over the course of several months, which were carried out in various locations along U.S. 31 on the eastside of Traverse City, East Bay Township and Acme Township.

The jury deliberated for two hours before convicting Defendant of all charges. Sentencing will occur in the next four to six weeks. Given the extent and manor of the heroin trafficking involved in this case, the Grand Traverse County Prosecutor will seek the maximum penalty as authorized by law.

