



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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Case Update: Man Who Sold Fatal Dose of Fentanyl Found Guilty of First-Degree Murder – Sentenced to Life in Prison

BUNNELL, Fla. — On November 21, a Flagler County jury found Brian Pirraglia guilty of First-Degree Murder by Unlawful Distribution of a Controlled Substance, following a three-day trial. After being convicted, he was sentenced by Judge Dawn Nichols to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The verdict came after a two-year investigation in which Flagler County Sheriff's Office detectives determined Pirraglia was responsible for selling drugs laced with fentanyl to a Palm Coast man, resulting in his overdose death in February 2022. The investigation was led by Detective First Class Adam Gossett and involved FCSO's Major Case Unit, Special Investigations Unit, Crime Scene Investigations Unit, Community Policing Division, and Real Time Crime Center, as well as the State Attorney's Office - 7th Judicial Circuit's Homicide Investigation Unit.

Sheriff Rick Staly had previously directed that all overdose deaths be investigated as homicide cases to hold drug dealers accountable for their actions. Since this directive, 11 individuals have been arrested for causing overdose deaths. So far, seven, including Pirraglia, have been convicted and sentenced to state prison.

"Thanks to our incredibly hard-working team, especially Detective Gossett, and our partners at the State Attorney's Office who prosecuted this case, Brian Pirraglia will spend the rest of his life sitting in state prison and thinking about the consequences of his actions," said Sheriff Staly. "We will continue to use every means possible to hold drug dealers accountable if they kill someone with their poison. If you are a poison peddler and sell a fatal dose in Flagler County, we are coming for you next."

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Two-Year Investigation Leads to Indictment for First-Degree Murder for Selling a Fatal Dose of Fentanyl

BUNNELL, Fla. — After a two-year-long investigation, a Palm Coast man has been indicted for first-degree murder.

At approximately 3:18 p.m. on February 8, 2022, FCSO Deputies were dispatched to 17 Blasdell Court for a possible overdose death of a Palm Coast resident. Patrol deputies and the Flagler County Sheriff's Office Major Case Unit and Special Investigations Unit responded to the scene.

During the investigation and using various investigative, forensic and toxicology techniques, detectives determined that Brian Pirraglia, 42, of Palm Coast, sold drugs laced with fentanyl to the victim resulting in a fatal overdose. The investigation, led by FCSO's Major Case Unit's Detective Adam Gossett, resulted in dozens of interviews, countless hours reviewing forensic evidence and following numerous other investigative leads to solve the case. During the 2-year long investigation, Detective Gossett also obtained arrest warrants on several related offenders and located and arrested a fugitive from justice.

At the conclusion of the two-year-long investigation, on June 14, 2024, Brian Pirraglia was indicted by the Flagler County Grand Jury for first-degree murder by unlawful distribution of a controlled substance. Pirraglia was served the indictment at the Flagler County Inmate Facility, where he is currently incarcerated for a warrant for order to show cause – contempt of court. He is being held on no bond.

Members of FCSO's Major Case Unit, Special Investigations Unit, Crime Scene Investigations Unit, Community Policing Division, Real Time Crime Center, and the 7th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office Homicide Investigation Unit all assisted with the murder investigation.

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Brian Pirraglia (Sheriff Perry Hall Inmate Detention Facility)

“I want to commend all our Units and everyone who was involved in this investigation for their hard work and persistence to bring this poison peddler to justice,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “Years ago, I directed that all overdose deaths be investigated as a murder. If you are a drug dealer and sell a fatal dose of poison in Flagler County, even if it takes two years, we are going to get you. Hopefully, he will have a long time in state prison to think about the death he caused and the damage he has done to individuals and families selling his poison.”

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