



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill  
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2008

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

FAX: (813) 274-6300

## **NAPLES DOCTOR CONVICTED OF ILLEGALLY PROVIDING NARCOTICS**

Ft. Myers, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court today found Sharon Johnston guilty of four counts of illegally dispensing narcotics outside the scope of medical practice. The maximum penalty Johnston faces is a term of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 23, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. Sharon Johnston was indicted on August 29, 2007.

According to testimony and evidence presented at trial, Dr. Johnston illegally prescribed oxycodone, xanax, and methadone. Dr. Johnston turned her practice into what is often referred to as a "pill mill", where powerful narcotics could be obtained with only a cursory physical examination. The prescriptions the defendant provided were dangerous, and potentially deadly.

The case was investigated by agents from the Naples Police Department, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, and the DEA Task Force. The case was prosecuted by Chief Assistant United States Attorney Douglas Molloy and Assistant United States Attorney Simon Gaugush.

---