



Department of Justice

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COLLEGE PARK MAN GOES TO PRISON FOR CULTIVATING MARIJUANA, MAKING COUNTERFEIT MONEY

Brown Sentenced to 10 Years Incarceration for Growing Over 130 Marijuana Plants in Rooms Next to Nursery With 7-Week Old Child

ATLANTA, GA - VIRGIL A. BROWN, 39, of College Park, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr., on charges of manufacturing, dealing, and possessing counterfeit currency, conspiracy, and possessing with intent to distribute over 100 marijuana plants.

“This defendant put his seven-week old child in jeopardy by growing marijuana plants, manufacturing counterfeit bills, and even taking him to a deal where he was negotiating the counterfeit bills,” said David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. “This case is yet another reminder of how crime places families—including the families of the criminals—at risk.”

BROWN was sentenced to 10 years in prison to be followed by 8 years of supervised release. BROWN was convicted of these charges after a jury trial on August 31, 2006.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: BROWN and a co-conspirator dealt thousands of dollars worth of counterfeit currency on multiple occasions in April 2004. BROWN manufactured the counterfeit currency and brought it to his co-conspirator who had arranged the deals. BROWN also maintained a large marijuana growing operation in his house, which totaled over 130 growing marijuana plants. BROWN’s seven-week old son slept in a nursery next door to the marijuana growing rooms. BROWN also brought his son to the counterfeit deal where BROWN was arrested. BROWN has numerous prior state drug convictions.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, with the assistance of the Atlanta Police Department and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Assistant United States Attorney Lawrence R. Sommerfeld prosecuted the case.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta recommends parents and children learn about the dangers of drugs at the following web site: www.justthinktwice.com.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.