



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/06/06

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

STOCKBRIDGE MAN INDICTED FOR POISONING HIS OWN CHILDREN

Atlanta, GA - WILLIAM ALLEN CUNNINGHAM, 40, of Stockbridge, Georgia was indicted today by a federal grand jury on charges of tampering with consumer products with reckless disregard for the risk that another person would be placed in danger of death or serious bodily injury, mail fraud, wire fraud, and communicating false statements that a consumer product had been tampered with. CUNNINGHAM is expected to have an initial appearance, bond hearing and arraignment before a federal magistrate next week.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said of the case, "This parent allegedly committed a horrific crime, putting foreign substances, including prescription drugs, in soup that he fed his young children on three different occasions, resulting in multiple trips to the emergency room, in hopes of getting money from the soup manufacturer. In statements to police in Clayton County, he allegedly said he intended to get money by suing the makers of the soup claiming the product was the cause of the children's sickness. This case is serious and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the charges and other information on public record in Clayton County: On three separate occasions in January 2006, CUNNINGHAM allegedly fed his children, then ages 3 years and 18 months, Campbell's soup that he tampered with by placing foreign substances in the soup. All three times, the children were taken to the emergency room for treatment. On the third occasion, January 29, 2006, CUNNINGHAM allegedly fed the children soup tainted with the prescription drugs Prozac and Amitriptyline. CUNNINGHAM's daughter had to be life-flighted to a hospital in Atlanta, and this poisoning resulted in extended hospital stays for both children.

The indictment charges three counts of tampering with consumer products, one count of mail fraud, one count of wire fraud, and one count of communicating a false statement that the consumer product has been tampered. The charges carry a maximum sentence of 75 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1,500,000.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Food and Drug Administration, Investigators of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Clayton County Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Aaron M. Danzig is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Randy S. Chartash, Chief, Economic Crimes Section, 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/ga.