



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DOCTOR SENTENCED FOR UNLAWFUL SALE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAMPLES**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City doctor of osteopathic medicine was sentenced today for the unlawful sale of prescription drug samples. This case, Graves added, is the product of the same investigation that led to successful prosecutions in several earlier cases, including the prosecution of **Robert Ray Courtney**.

**Steven Michael Cicero**, 48, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to two years of probation, including six months of home detention and 600 hours of community service. The court also imposed a fine of \$30,000, which was the maximum fine permitted under the federal sentencing guidelines. **Cicero** previously surrendered his license to medicine in Missouri.

In a separate civil proceeding, **Cicero** earlier forfeited \$30,000 representing the proceeds he collected from the illegal sale of sample drugs.

On Oct. 24, 2002, **Cicero** pleaded guilty to a federal information charging him with the sale of prescription drug samples. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Cicero** admitted that between 1996 and 2001 he sold prescription drug samples valued at more than \$10,000 but not exceeding \$30,000. The list of drugs **Cicero** sold includes brands such as Prevacid, Zolof and Prozac.

**Cicero** operated a medical office at the North Town Medical Group in North Kansas City, Mo.

Graves explained that the prosecution of **Cicero** is directly related to the prosecutions of **Clarence Herschel Winer**, a Kansas City pharmacist recently sentenced for the wholesale distribution of prescription drugs; **Steuart Smith**, who stole prescription drugs from the University of Colorado hospital; **Aram Paraghamian**, a Denver resident who bought stolen

drugs from Smith and arranged for their delivery to Kansas City; and **Gary Ravis**, another former Kansas City area pharmacist who bought the stolen drugs on the black market, including purchases from **Cicero**. Those cases stemmed from the criminal investigation of former Kansas City pharmacist **Robert Ray Courtney**, who was sentenced on Dec. 5, 2002, to 30 years in prison and ordered to pay almost \$10.5 million in restitution for charges related to dispensing diluting chemotherapy treatment drugs.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gene Porter. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Food and Drug Administration.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)