



# OHIO STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

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Media Release

## **Pill Mill Owner Faces 10 Years in Prison**

Wheelersburg, Ohio (Scioto County) - On September 7, 2012, Ohio State Board of Pharmacy Director Kyle Parker announced that George Marshall Adkins pleaded guilty to five felony charges: Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, Conspiracy to Engage in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, Permitting Drug Abuse, Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs, and Forgery.

The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy is charged with the enforcement of the Ohio Drug Laws and in 2010, initiated an investigation of Greater Medical Advance, Inc., an illegal "pill mill", which was owned and operated by George Marshall Adkins, also known as Marshall Adkins, and whose improperly prescribed pharmaceuticals attributed to the rise in addiction, overdoses, and deaths in the State of Ohio.

Adkins, a native of West Portsmouth, Ohio, was the primary focus of the investigation lead by Agent Kevin "Joe" Kinner of the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy. Adkins operated Greater Medical Advance Inc., as a pill mill, by employing and directing Dr. Victor Georgescu to write prescriptions for controlled substances, which experts found were not issued for a legitimate medical purpose, making the prescriptions illegal.

Pharmacies in the Scioto County were refusing to fill prescriptions for patients of Greater Medical Advance Inc., and Adkins, using Dr. Georgescu's DEA number, began ordering controlled substances from wholesalers and dispensing them directly to their patients. Adkins would charge an over inflated price for the drugs, sometimes as much as ten times the amount a local pharmacy would charge for the same drug.

Dr. Georgescu was arrested on December 20, 2011, and faced similar charges as Adkins, but died before his trial date. Other co-defendants charged in this case are, Tammy Newman, who pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Engage in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, and Melissa Veach who is awaiting trial on charges of Drug Trafficking.

The Scioto County Prosecutor's Office, assisted by The Ohio Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Unit, recommended that Adkins be sentenced to ten years in prison. Scioto County Common Pleas Judge William Marshall will sentence Adkins in October.

"This conviction is a great accomplishment for the residents of Southern Ohio and for the Board of Pharmacy. We will continue to place all efforts to protect the safety of Ohio citizens from this prescription drug epidemic," said Ohio State Board of Pharmacy Director Kyle Parker. "Our field agents and compliance specialists are highly trained investigators with decades of experience and their effort on this case is a prime example of the great work that they do every day."

The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy is the governing agency of the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (O.A.R.R.S.), a prescription monitoring program established in 2006 as a tool to assist healthcare professionals and law enforcement agencies to quickly identify drug seeking behaviors and patterns of improper prescribing by physicians. O.A.R.R.S. was an invaluable tool during this investigation. "O.A.R.R.S. is the strongest prescription monitoring program in the country and will continue to be a key factor in combating prescription drug diversion in Ohio," said Director Parker.

The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy would like to thank the following local and state agencies for their support with this investigation and prosecution of this case: Ohio Attorney General, Mike DeWine, Sr.; Assistant Attorney General, Aaron Haslam; Associate Assistant Attorney General, Sarah Schenck; Associate Assistant Attorney General, Matthew Donahue of the Special Prosecutions Unit; Scioto County Prosecutor, Mark Kuhn; Scioto County Sheriff's Office; Portsmouth Police Department; Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification; Lawrence County Major Crimes Task Force; Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and RANGE Taskforce; Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Watercraft; Drug Enforcement Agency; Federal Bureau of Investigation; United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio; and, State Medical Board of Ohio.