

## **Lebanon Man Sent to Prison for Role in Girlfriend's Death**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 31, 2016**

**DAVID P. FORNSHELL  
(513) 695-1325**

Steven Lay, 35, of Lebanon was sentenced to seven years in prison today before Warren County Common Pleas Judge Robert Peeler, for causing the death of his girlfriend, Shawna Mitchell. Lay pled guilty last month to involuntary manslaughter, a felony of the first degree; corrupting another with drugs, a felony of the second degree; tampering with evidence, a felony of the third degree; and two counts of child endangering, each a misdemeanor of the first degree.

On April 19, 2016, Lay purchased heroin for \$65.00 from a drug dealer in Middletown. He later admitted to Lebanon police detectives that he knew the heroin was Fentanyl. Toxicology reports later confirmed the dosage contained only Fentanyl. Once home, he and Mitchell went to the bedroom to snort the drugs, leaving the couple's one year old child and Mitchell's ten year old autistic child in the family room. After the two were finished using the drugs, Lay went to the bathroom and passed out. When he awoke, he discovered Mitchell's unconscious body slumped over in the hallway. Lay administered CPR for 10-15 minutes, unsuccessfully. He then disposed of the remaining drugs in the toilet and hid the paraphernalia under the mattress before calling 911. Lebanon Fire Department and Lebanon Police Department personnel arrived but were unable to revive Mitchell. She was declared dead at the scene.

Prosecutor Fornshell praised the investigation efforts of the Lebanon Division of Police Detective Greg Spanel, Assistant Prosecutor Travis Vieux, Victim Witness Coordinator Melissa Kennard, Investigator Tim Schaffner and Legal Assistant Kathy Fink.



Warren County Prosecutor  
David P. Fornshell  
(513) 695-1325

<http://www.warrencountyprosecutor.com>  
<http://www.co.warren.oh.us/clerkofcourt/>