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8 Year Prison Sentence for Drug-Induced Homicide

Kendall County State's Attorney Eric Weis announced that Maritza Ruiz (dob: 2/22/77) of Aurora, Illinois was sentenced to 8 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on one count of Drug-Induced Homicide. Ruiz will be required to serve at least 75% of the 8-year prison sentence as truth-in-sentencing applies to this offense.

Charges were filed against Ruiz based on an incident from back in July of 2020. Deputies from the Kendall County Sheriff's Office discovered Stanley Heath deceased in his home in the 8000 block of Van Emmon Road in unincorporated Yorkville. An analyses of Mr. Heath's cell phone led deputies to question Ruiz about delivering heroin to Mr. Heath. It was found that Ruiz drove to meet Heath at the Van Emmon Road address and delivered heroin to Heath. Heath died as a result of taking the heroin. Ruiz was charged with Drug-Induced Homicide and was taken into custody.

Ruiz pleaded guilty back in October of 2022 and was sentenced last week. After hearing victim impact statements from the family and friends of Heath, Judge Robert Pilmer imposed the 8-year prison sentence. Ruiz has remained in custody since she was arrested for the offense back in November of 2020.

Weis praised the hard work and dedication of the Kendall County Sheriff's Office for their investigation and pursuit of justice for the Heath Family. Weis also commended Assistant Ryan Phelps, who was responsible for the prosecution. Weis expresses his condolences to the Heath family, "Nothing can bring Stanley Heath back to his family. Heroin and similar dangerous drugs can be so devastating to our communities. We must continue to hold those accountable that deliver and provide these deadly drugs." Ruiz was represented by Attorney David Camic.