

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney
General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES CONVICTIONS RELATED TO METH LAB

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange today announced the convictions and sentences of several defendants in Cherokee County Circuit Court for crimes related to manufacturing methamphetamine.

Michael Todd Hicks, 41, of Piedmont, was sentenced on March 12 to life imprisonment for manufacturing a controlled substance, to 20 years imprisonment for possession of a precursor to a controlled substance, and to 15 years for possession of a controlled substance. A precursor is an ingredient used to make a controlled substance.

Hicks and two other defendants, Tina Wilson Parker and Cristen Arledge, were discovered by law enforcement in a vehicle with meth lab components, and were arrested on January 15, 2011, in Centre. Evidence revealed that these three had previously cooked meth the night before at Parker's residence in Centre, with her 11-year-old son present. Hicks pleaded guilty on November 4, 2011, to manufacturing a controlled substance. On the same day, Parker and Arledge pleaded guilty to conspiracy to unlawfully manufacture a controlled substance. In addition, Parker pleaded guilty to chemical endangerment of a child. Parker and Arledge also were sentenced on March 12, each to 10 years imprisonment, which was suspended, and a term of five years of probation.

Additional investigation revealed that Terry North and Christopher Hicks had purchased cold medications containing pseudoephedrine and provided it to Michael Hicks with knowledge that it was going to be used to manufacture methamphetamine. North and Christopher Hicks pleaded guilty on November 4, 2011, to possession of a precursor substance. On Monday they were each sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, which was suspended, and five years of probation.

Arledge is 41 years old, of Huntsville; Parker is 47, of Centre; North, 44, is of Centre; Christopher Hicks, 39, is of Cedar Bluff. Michael and Christopher Hicks are brothers.

Attorney General Strange commended those involved in bringing this case to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorney General Ben Baxley of the Attorney General's Violent Crimes Division. He also thanked the Centre Police Department, the Cherokee County Narcotics Task Force and CVS Pharmacy.

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