

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 24, 2023

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## Man Convicted of Trafficking Methamphetamine

On Thursday, March 23, 2023, a Douglas County jury returned a verdict convicting fifty-two-year-old Michael Brown of trafficking methamphetamine, possession of fentanyl, possession of drug-related objects, driving while license suspended, driving on canceled registration, and no proof of insurance. The prosecution team was led by Assistant District Attorneys Nelly Ndounteng and Ansley House. This investigation was led by Deputy Russell of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Chief Superior Court Judge William "Beau" McClain presided over the matter.

On September 30, 2021, Deputy Russell with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office observed a red 1995 Dodge Ram 1500. The tag returned belonging to a 2003 beige Toyota Camry. A traffic stop was then conducted on the Dodge Ram based on the discrepancy with the vehicle's tag. Law enforcement encountered the driver Michael Brown, who advised that he did not have his license on him. After running his name and date of birth by dispatch, they advised that Mr. Brown had a suspended license and an active warrant for a parole violation. Mr. Brown was then arrested at the scene for the parole violation.

During the impound inventory of the vehicle, deputies located a tool bag in the front passenger side floorboard. When the deputies opened the bag, they found it contained approximately 80 grams of methamphetamine, 8 grams of suspected heroin, 2 glass pipes, 2 butane lighters, and a scale. The GBI Crime Lab that the drugs collected were methamphetamine and fentanyl.

"We commend the great work of our law enforcement partners on getting these deadly drugs off of our streets", stated District Attorney Dalia Racine. "We can't quantify the number of overdose deaths that have been avoided in this one arrest and subsequent conviction, but we know our community is the safer for it."

After hearing all the evidence and testimony, the jury returned its verdict of guilty convicting Brown of trafficking methamphetamine, possession of fentanyl, possession of drug-related objects, driving while license suspended, driving on canceled registration, and no proof of insurance. Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date.