

August 3, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: GRUNDY COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN OPIOID DEATH OF PREGNANT WOMAN

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Grundy County man pleaded guilty to the drug induced homicide of a pregnant Braidwood woman. Samantha Kile, 22, of Braidwood, Illinois died after overdosing on fentanyl and heroin sold by Colin West, 27.

West, of Gardner, Illinois, pleaded guilty in Grundy County Circuit Court to the drug induced homicide of Kile, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance. West was sentenced to eight years in prison.

"Too many Illinois lives have been lost to opioid addiction, and the defendant's actions resulted not just in Samantha Kile's death but also that of her unborn son," Raoul said. "This case illustrates the importance of collaborations between state and local law enforcement agencies, which are critical in holding accountable individuals who sell dangerous, highly-addictive opioids. I will continue to work with other law enforcement agencies to protect communities from the devastation of the opioid epidemic."

Attorney General Raoul's office alleged that on Nov. 2, 2018, West and Kile exchanged a series of online messages in which West arranged to meet Kile to sell her opioids. After meeting with West, Kile returned home and told her mother she planned to take a bath before going to bed. In the early morning of Nov. 3, Kile's mother found her daughter underwater in the bathtub with what appeared to be heroin in the bathroom. The Will County coroner later confirmed that Kile, who was pregnant with a baby boy, died of drowning due to fentanyl and heroin intoxication. West was arrested in December 2019 and later admitted to Braidwood police that he sold Kile heroin on the night he last saw her.

The Attorney General's office co-prosecuted the case with Grundy County State's Attorney Jason Helland's office.

"We appreciate the cooperation between the Braidwood Police Department and the Attorney General's office on this multi-jurisdictional case," said Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons. "These cases can be very challenging, and the support our partnership provides is invaluable."

Assistant Attorney General Andrew Whitfield prosecuted the case for Raoul's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau. Pete Siena prosecuted the case for Helland's office.