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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Iron Range man sentenced for causing synthetic drug death

An Eveleth man who provided a synthetic drug to his girlfriend causing her death received a 10-year, two-month guideline prison sentence Monday in State District Court in Virginia, St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin said.

A jury on Jan. 21 found Bryan Joseph Hodapp, 28, guilty of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of Krystal Wicklund, 21, of Duluth.

Hodapp provided Ms. Wicklund with a substance known as 25I-NBOMe. Shortly after ingesting the substance she began to vomit and suffer convulsions. She was transported to the Ely-Bloomenson Hospital where she was pronounced dead later that day on Aug. 30, 2013.

A St. Louis County medical examiner determined that the victim died as a result of a fatal overdose of the synthetic drug.

The case was investigated by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by Assistant St. Louis County Attorney Gordon Coldagelli.

"It is my hope that this conviction and sentence sends the message to drug dealers in our towns and cities that the law enforcement community and the St. Louis County Attorney's Office will vigorously pursue the prosecution of these cases," Coldagelli said. "The greatest justice for the family of Krystal Wicklund would be for the prosecution of this case to have a chilling effect on the distribution of drugs that are killing people in our communities."

According to a 2015 report from the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the synthetic drug 25I-NBOMe, also known as "N bomb," has been associated with the deaths of at least 17 people in the United States since 2010.

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