



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Press Release

### Bikerz Finest owner gets prison in opiate distribution case

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The former owner of a now-closed Rte. 1 motorcycle shop and a co-defendant have pled guilty to buying 2,500 oxycodone pain pills from a dying cancer patient in 2011 and intending to resell them, according to Norfolk DA Michael W. Morrissey.

Edward Hartnett, 37, of Braintree and Brian Denoncourt, 29, of Hancock, Maine, pled guilty before Norfolk Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fishman on September 16, 2014. Each pled guilty to Possession with intent to distribute a class B substance and Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws.

Hartnett, who had one prior drug conviction on his record, was sentenced to 3 ½ to 4 years in State Prison. Denoncourt, who had no prior criminal history, was sentenced to 2 years in the house of correction with 2 years' probation supervision after his release.

"In late 2011, Duxbury, Braintree and Norwood police began investigating a tip that a Duxbury man named James Hughes, a cancer patient, was selling his prescribed pain medication to the defendant on a monthly basis," District Attorney Morrissey said. "On Nov. 25, 2011, officers followed Hughes from his home to a pharmacy in Duxbury, where he legally filled his prescription. Officers then followed as he went directly to the Bikerz Finest shop in Rte. 1. After a few minutes inside, Hughes left the shop and a motor vehicle stop was conducted on Rte. 1. He admitted to having just sold 2,500 pills to Hartnett for \$15,000."

A Bikerz Finest merchandise box containing \$15,000 cash was found in Hughes' car. Officers returned to Bikerz Finest and found Hartnett and Denoncourt standing inside the office. Police secured the scene, obtained a search warrant for the store, and recovered an additional \$5,000 in cash and 1,500 oxycodone pills and packaging material in the office. An additional 1,000 pills were recovered from Denoncourt's jacket.

James Hughes was charged at the time of the incident, but died before his case could be resolved.

"The Braintree, Norwood, Duxbury and Marshfield police departments did nice work developing a tip into a successful case," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The prescription drug addiction crisis is playing out in so many forms and impacting so many lives. Law enforcement agencies have to work together to stop these pills from being diverted and destroying lives."