



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**COUNTY OF KERN**

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING  
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301  
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:**

DDA Samuel Birchfield  
(661) 868-2065

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Approved by CJZ  
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**Jury Finds Young III Guilty of Transporting Fentanyl for Sale**  
*People v. Joe Wayne Young III: Kern County Superior Court Case BF191751A*

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a drug sales conviction. On April 3, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Samuel Birchfield, a Kern County Jury found Joe Wayne Young III guilty of transporting fentanyl for sale, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of methamphetamine pipes. The court also found true that Young was armed with a firearm during the commission of transporting for sale.

On January 4, 2022, Officers with the Kern County Probation Office responded to an Oildale residence to conduct a probationary check on Young. Officers initially saw Young by his vehicle, placing a camouflage backpack in the backseat. When opening the front passenger door, Officers noticed a 30-round Glock magazine in the vehicle. Young was detained while officers conducted a protective sweep of the vehicle and residence.

A K9 officer responded to conduct an open-air sniff and detected narcotics in Young's vehicle. During the search of the vehicle, the camouflage backpack was located. In Young's backpack, he had a plastic bag containing 11.4 grams of fentanyl, a smaller plastic bag containing .9 grams of fentanyl, an operable digital scale with white residue, and several small plastic bags identical to the plastic bag containing the .9 grams of fentanyl. In Young's bedroom, Officers located four methamphetamine smoking pipes, .05 grams of methamphetamine, two loaded Glock handguns, two additional magazines for the Glocks, and another operable digital scale. Investigation revealed that Young intended to sell the fentanyl by using the digital scale to weigh smaller quantities of fentanyl and repackage it using the smaller plastic bags.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "Californians for Safer Communities determined that fentanyl accounts for 20% of the youth deaths in California. These alarming numbers require immediate action, and it all begins with putting an end to the distribution of this deadly drug."

Sentencing is set for May 1, 2024, before the Honorable Tiffany Organ-Bowles in Department 8 of the

Kern County Superior Court. Young faces up to 6 years and 6 months in jail.

Joe Wayne Young III:

