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N.H. man gets 20-year sentence for role in teenager's fatal overdose

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By **Travis Andersen**

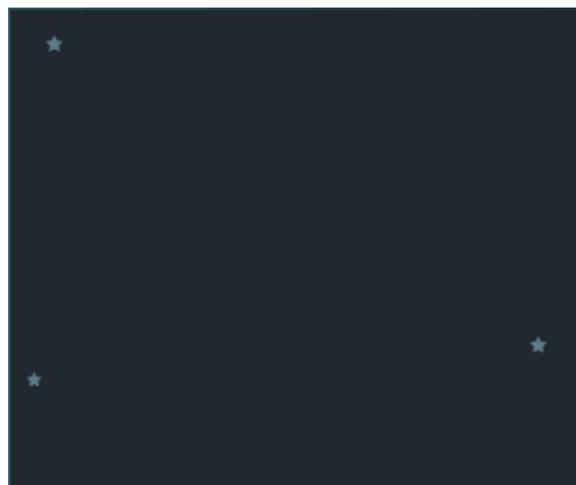
GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 28, 2016

A Rochester, N.H. man received a 20-year prison term Friday for supplying heroin to his girlfriend's 17-year-old daughter, who suffered a fatal overdose in a motel room, prosecutors said.

Mark Ross, 42, was sentenced in federal court in Concord, according to legal filings and a statement from US Attorney Emily Gray Rice's office.

Ross pleaded guilty in July to distributing the narcotics that claimed the life of Evangelique "Eve" Tarmey, [who overdosed](#) while Ross and his girlfriend, Tarmey's mother Jazzmyn Rood, slept in the same room in October 2015.

"Any drug distribution has the potential to be deadly, regardless of the quantity of drugs involved," Rice said in a statement. "When a drug distribution causes an overdose death, my office will seek to hold the distributor accountable."



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Ross's lawyer, Philip H. Utter, declined to comment.

According to prosecutors, Ross was living with Tarmey and Rood at the Riviera Motel in Rochester last fall, and Ross traveled with Tarmey and another person, Leslie Aberle, to Lawrence, Mass. on Oct. 16, 2015 to buy heroin.

Tarmey planned to meet a date in Massachusetts and stay there, but the man stood her up, so she traveled back to Rochester with Ross and Aberle, police said.

Back at the motel, the three adults including Tarmey's mother shot heroin, and Aberle and Ross then gave some to Tarmey, who was upset that her date did not show, according to Rochester police.

Ross woke up to find the girl dead from an overdose around 3:30 a.m., according to authorities.

But he waited roughly 90 minutes to call police, first tossing the drug evidence, police have said.

Aberle pleaded guilty to the same [federal charge](#) as Ross in July and is scheduled to be sentenced in January, court records show.

Rood pleaded guilty in August to lying to authorities who investigated her daughter's death. Her sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 2.

In a recent legal filing, Utter, Ross's lawyer, noted that his client faced a minimum term of 20 years and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Utter described the case as "a sad and tragic example of what can occur when individuals are unable to overcome an addiction to heroin. There are no excuses for what happened. Counsel represents to



this Court that the sadness and remorse Mr. Ross feels for his actions are genuine. He accepts responsibility for his role in the death” of Tarmey.

Matt Rocheleau of the Globe Staff contributed to this report. Travis Andersen can be reached at travis.andersen@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@TAGlobe](https://twitter.com/TAGlobe).

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