

Lexington Park man gets 10 years for cocaine distribution

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Herbert Gaylord Niles

Leonardtown, MD -- A Lexington Park man has been sentenced to 10 years in jail for distribution of cocaine. Herbert Niles, 51, was sentenced Thursday in St. Mary's County Circuit Court by Judge Michael Stamm.

Niles pled guilty on September 26th of last year to one count contained in two separate indictments charging distribution. The indictments were handed down in December of 2013.

According to information from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at the time of Niles' arrest, "Several undercover purchases of cocaine were made by detectives."

According to Judge Stamm, Niles' record included violating probation on four occasions. His record led to the higher guidelines for the case of seven to 15 years.

Niles was represented by public defender Kevin Hill, who asked that the judge not impose the upper limit of the guidelines because of the positive things about Niles contained in his pre-sentence report from the Department of Parole and Probation.

Judge Stamm took note of that record, saying there were "extraordinary things you have done in the community." The judge said that portion of Niles' record was sealed in court documents.

Because of what Niles has done in the community, the judge agreed with Hill to impose a sentence in the middle of the guidelines (10 years), which is said is unusual for him. Niles was given credit for the 30 days he has spent in jail.

Niles was immediately remanded into custody for transportation to the Maryland Department of Corrections.

Prosecutor Buffy Giddens represented the state at the sentencing hearing.

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