



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER
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Lexington Man Pleads Guilty to Drug Charges, Criminal Domestic Violence

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Keith F. Brannon, Jr., 26, of 343 Old Orangeburg Road in Lexington, pleaded guilty on May 24, 2004 to four (4) indictments pending against him. The indictments are as follows:

- 1) Possession with Intent to Distribute Crack Cocaine - Second Offense, a felony violation of § 44-53-375(B)(2) of the Code of Laws, punishable to twenty-five (25) years imprisonment.
- 2) Distribution of Crack Cocaine - Second Offense, a felony violation of § 44-53-375(B)(2), punishable to twenty-five (25) years imprisonment.
- 3) Possession of Marijuana - Second Offense, a misdemeanor violation of § 44-53-370(d)(3), punishable to one (1) year imprisonment.
- 4) Criminal Domestic Violence - Third Offense, a misdemeanor violation of § 16-25-20, punishable to three (3) years imprisonment.

On September 12, 2000, Brannon hit and slapped his girlfriend (who is also the mother of his child) during an altercation. The victim filed a complaint with law enforcement.

On September 22, 2000, Brannon was apprehended for Distribution of Crack Cocaine as a result of a recorded sale to a Lexington County Sheriff's Deputy. He was not arrested at the time, because deputies did not want it to become known that Brannon was to begin working for them. However, a warrant was issued.

The warrant was served on November 3, 2000 when deputies arrived at a drug house to serve a search warrant. Brannon fled, and when caught was in possession of crack cocaine and marijuana. He was arrested, and also served the warrant from September 22.

Judge Marc Westbrook, presiding over the General sessions Court of Lexington County, sentenced Brannon on each charge: Criminal Domestic Violence – three (3) years imprisonment, Distribution of Crack Cocaine – five (5) years imprisonment, Possession with Intent to Distribute Crack Cocaine – five (5) years imprisonment, and Possession of Marijuana – one (1) year imprisonment.

Despite the objection of prosecution, Brannon was given five (5) months credit for time served for the time he spent awaiting trial in the Lexington County jail.

This case was investigated by the Lexington County Sheriff's Office and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

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