



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SLE Owner Admits to Possession of Narcotics for Sale while Armed**

A 60-year-old Oroville man, who owned and operated a number of sober living environment (SLE) homes in Oroville, pleaded no-contest this afternoon in Butte County Superior Court to two charges of transporting narcotics for sales and one charge of possessing narcotics while armed with a firearm.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that **Michael Mirton Anderson** appeared in court today and entered the no-contest pleas rather than proceed to a jury trial on his charges. Anderson was arrested in April of 2022 when the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force (BINTF) stopped Anderson who was driving his vehicle with two known narcotics offenders.

A search of the vehicle revealed a loaded handgun hidden between the driver's seat and the center console. BINTF agents also located a backpack belonging to Anderson containing two additional handguns, 67.61 grams of fentanyl, 1.62 grams of heroin, and approximately half a pound of methamphetamine. An additional 293 pills stamped as "M-30" were located in the backpack as well. Although the pills were marked as oxycodone, testing revealed that the pills were counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl.

Anderson's cell phone was also seized and a search of the phone located months of sales text messages.

After accumulating a lengthy criminal history in the 80s and 90s, Ramsey said Anderson managed to turn his life around and received a Certificate of Rehabilitation in 2016 from the Butte County Superior Court. Anderson became the owner, operator, and president of the Northern California Treatment Services, providing SLE homes for addicts attempting to change their lives. Unfortunately, Anderson ended up victimizing the very people he had once tried to help, illegally arming himself and selling narcotics to the addicts of Butte County.

Ramsey said Anderson's access to addicts through his SLEs was particularly concerning, especially given the quantity of narcotics found in Anderson's possession.

Anderson is set to be sentenced on his offenses on March 22, 2023. If sentenced to prison, Anderson faces a maximum sentence of seven years in state prison. In the meantime, he remains Butte County Jail without bail.



Michael Mirton Anderson