

### Attempt to obtain prescription drugs lands father and son team in jail

Local law enforcement worked together to stop a pair of men attempting to obtain prescription drugs illegally. The drug diversion attempt was foiled when an alert pharmacist notified police. Police Chief Jimmy Wright, Towns County Sheriff's Detective Curt Donaldson and an agent of the Appalachian Drug Task Force stopped the father and son team from completing the deal.

A local man, posing as a doctor, phoned in a fake prescription to a local pharmacy. The man's 72 year old father, acting as a patient, attempted to pick up the prescription drugs. The two men were both arrested and charged with two counts of criminal attempt to commit a felony, two counts of conspiracy to commit a crime, and using fictitious information to obtain a prescription.

Sheriff Clinton stated that prescription drug diversion is a serious issue in America today. Prescription diversion hurts everyone, he said. Attempts like these can make it harder for patients who really need the medicine to get them. According to the information received from the Georgia crime labs, as many as 87% of the fatal overdoses in Georgia are the result of prescription drugs, mostly caused by prescription diversions such as this. It is very important that we do all we can to stop these pills, which have legitimate uses, from being diverted where they can fall into the hands of our children and other unsuspecting persons who might think of them as "safer" than street drugs, such as heroin or methamphetamine. The fact is that when used for any reason other than intended, they can be even more deadly than "street drugs."

