

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
BLUE RIDGE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT



SHANNON WALLACE  
District Attorney

Cherokee County Justice Center  
90 North Street, Suite 390  
Canton, GA 30114

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Cyndi Crossland  
Public Information Officer  
cbcrossland@cherokeega.com  
770-479-1488

**Acworth man sentenced for possession and trafficking of controlled substances**  
**State vs. Thomas Ernest Jones**

**December 4, 2019** – District Attorney Shannon Wallace announces that Thomas Ernest Jones, 43, pled guilty and was sentenced on December 3 for trafficking methamphetamine and operating a vehicle containing a secret compartment.

Jones was arrested for these offenses in June 2019 after a Cherokee Sheriff's Office deputy conducted a routine traffic stop for a headlight violation. While talking to the deputy, Jones admitted to prior drug use and criminal activity involving drugs. He consented to a search of his person and truck.

Deputies found approximately \$1,200 in cash on Jones. While searching the truck, they discovered a square cut out of the truck's floor that provided access to a hidden compartment attached to the bottom of the vehicle where Jones had hidden a clear bag of 36 grams of methamphetamine, a hypodermic needle, a digital pocket scale, a methamphetamine pipe, and a pill bottle with schedule IV narcotics. Jones admitted to small deal distributions of methamphetamine.

"This defendant has one of the worst drug histories I have personally seen, including three prior trafficking convictions in Florida. For this reason, the State recommended a sentence of 20 years to serve," said Assistant District Attorney David Holmes, who prosecuted the case on behalf of the State.

After Jones entered his negotiated guilty plea, Judge David L. Cannon Jr. sentenced him to 20 years to serve in the State Department of Corrections and a \$200,000 fine.

"Mr. Jones had created an elaborate means to conceal illegal narcotics in hopes of eluding detection, but law enforcement officers were able to locate the concealed compartment and make the arrest," said District Attorney Shannon Wallace. "This sentence ensures that another drug trafficker is off our streets and no longer able to sell narcotics in our county."

*The Office of the District Attorney for the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit is committed to seeking justice, acting with integrity, and collaborating with partner agencies in the criminal justice system in order to protect the citizens of Cherokee County and the State of Georgia.*

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