

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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**MAYS LANDING** – The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office is participating in the first statewide Medicine Disposal Day in the nation, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced today.

Operation Medicine Cabinet New Jersey will have local collection sites throughout Atlantic County from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 14. In an effort to ensure it will be available to residents of all corners of the county, members of the Prosecutor's Office will be at the City Hall in Corbin City, located at 316 Route 50, to assist in the collection.

The initiative is open to all county residents. The event was organized to encourage people to properly dispose of their unused, unwanted and expired medicine. There are over 250 New Jersey police departments participating in the event spearheaded by the Drug Enforcement Administration's New Jersey Division (DEA), the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General and the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ).

Gerard P. McAleer, Special Agent-in-Charge of the DEA stated, "We are very excited about the wide spread support and enthusiasm Operation Medicine Cabinet New Jersey is gaining in our coordinated efforts to bring public attention to this issue that is impacting our youth, our families, and our communities. Law enforcement is concerned with the alarming trend in the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs, with potential access to these drugs coming from the medicine cabinets of family and friends."

"This operation will reduce the availability of potent drugs that lead kids down a path to addiction," Attorney General Anne Milgram said. "We can't break a cycle of dependence if powerful prescription drugs are stashed in our own homes, tucked away in drawers and cabinets."

According to McAleer and Angelo Valente, Executive Director of Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey, a 2007 study by the National Study of Drug-Use and Health, found that 70-percent of prescription drug abusers said they got the drugs from friends or relatives and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), reported that upwards of 9 million people use prescription medication for non-medical uses. They noted that the 2007 Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey Principals survey found that half of the

principals surveyed said that prescription drugs are abused more than twice that of ecstasy and cocaine by New Jersey Middle School students.

**Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.**