

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Golden Grove Prisoner Gets Four More Months For Cell Phone Possession

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Golden Grove prisoner Avery Monsanto, 51, was sentenced to an additional four months in prison for Possession of Prison Contraband, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agent-in-Charge Vito S. Guarino announced Tuesday.

Monsanto's sentence was handed down on Dec. 22 by District Court Judge Raymond Finch and will be served consecutively to the sentence he was already serving at the time of the offense.

The Court also sentenced Monsanto to one year of supervised release.

Monsanto pled guilty to Possession of Prison Contraband on Aug. 6, 2014, stemming from a raid of his prison cell while he was a prisoner at the Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility on April 7, 2014. There, law enforcement officers discovered and confiscated three mobile phones in a cell only occupied by Monsanto.

According to a press release issued by U.S. Attorney Sharp about the sentence, cellular phones are prohibited contraband in correctional facilities because "they are known to be used by prisoners to intimidate witnesses, orchestrate narcotics transactions, and to facilitate other criminal activity, including murders."

The case was investigated by the V.I. Bureau of Corrections Gang Intelligence Search Team and the DEA. Assistant United States Attorneys Everard Potter and Rami Badawy prosecuted the case.

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