

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Pennsylvania Man Pleads Guilty To Purposefully Concealing His Role In Cocaine Smuggling Crime

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ST. THOMAS -- Michael Leonard, 21, of Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty today in District Court before District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez, to misprision of a felony, United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced. Sentencing is set for November 29, 2018.

The federal definition of misprision requires that, (1) the principal committed and completed the felony alleged; (2) the defendant had knowledge of the commission of the felony; (3) the defendant failed to notify the authorities that the crime had been committed; and (4) the defendant took affirmative steps to conceal the crime.

According to court documents, Leonard traveled with Reynaldo Lerburds and other individuals to a secluded area of St. John and was present when a shipment of cocaine was delivered. Leonard took steps to help conceal the cocaine and did not make any effort to notify law enforcement of the receipt of the cocaine or his actions in concealing the cocaine. When Leonard was arrested on April 18, 2018, he failed to inform law enforcement of the receipt of the cocaine or the transport of the cocaine.

Leonard faces a maximum sentence of three years and a \$250,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sigrid M. Tejo-Sprotte.