

Colorado investigating Breckenridge marijuana dispensary after arrests

By Ben Trollinger
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The former owner of a Breckenridge medical marijuana center is out on bond and awaiting a grand jury decision after attempting to sell 100 pounds of Colorado-grown marijuana to an undercover police officer in Tennessee.

Christopher Crumbliss, 39, was arrested on Nov. 20 last year in Nashville. He and two accomplices, including former Frisco resident Tasha Desmond, 21, were caught in a local sting operation that netted 425 pounds of marijuana worth roughly \$1.7 million, according to Nashville police.

At the time, officers also searched the trio's 2012 Dodge Ram truck and seized \$354,944 in cash, along with 17 "burner" cell phones and packaging material to wrap large amounts of money.

Crumbliss, Desmond and the third accomplice, 60-year-old Gary Chase of New Mexico, were each charged with two felony drug offenses: conspiracy to commit sale of a controlled substance and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Chase was also charged with two additional felonies, for cocaine and crystal meth possession.

On Nov. 24, Crumbliss was released on \$150,000 bond. The bond has no special conditions and he was not required to remain in Tennessee.

Desmond was released Dec. 4 on \$50,000 bond, down from the original \$150,000 amount. In return for the reduced bond, a Davidson County judge set several special conditions. Desmond must wear a GPS tracking device and remain at a female-only transitional living home in Nashville until the case is resolved. She also cannot amend the bond conditions until then.

Chase pled guilty to the crystal meth charges and is still being held on a \$230,000 bond.

By Nov. 26, less than a week after the sting, the Davidson County General Sessions Court transferred the case to the local grand jury. From there, it was handed off to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nashville.

The case is now being pursued federally, the office confirmed, although none of the three defendants has been officially charged at that level.

The grand jury hearing is also in limbo as of press time, according to the Nashville Criminal Court Clerk office.

DISPENSARY UNDER SUSPENSION

Crumbliss has a lengthy Colorado criminal record stretching back to 2006, including two Front Range marijuana busts between 2007 and 2008 that didn't result in criminal charges. He has been a registered medical caregiver since 2007 and was co-owner of Soul Shine Medical Consulting on Airport Road with his wife, Tiffany Anne Crumbliss.

This winter, after Crumbliss was arrested, the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division informed the town of Breckenridge that Soul Shine's medical center and cultivation licenses were under suspension for numerous violations.

The dispensary's local licenses are still active, town officials said, but businesses can't sell or grow marijuana without town and state licenses.

Breckenridge officials can't confirm the exact date the town was notified of the suspension, and the MED won't release details until an administrative investigation is complete. The MED did not provide a timeline for the investigation.

Soul Shine is the first Summit County dispensary to be investigated by the MED.

Shortly after the Nashville arrest, Tiffany Crumbliss, who took over as sole owner of Soul Shine in January 2014, denied any knowledge of the illegal sale. She and Christopher Crumbliss were separated at the time, and her attorney, Denver-based pot lawyer Sean McAllister, said there was no connection between Soul Shine and the seized marijuana.

At press time, the lights are still off at Soul Shine and Tiffany Crumbliss is no longer the owner. The local medical and cultivation licenses were transferred on March 12 to Gabe Franklin, and both licenses are now registered under the business name The Rabbit Hole.