



# **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Prescription Drug Abuse, a Growing Problem**

Kettering- Many people think of a drug abuser as somebody addicted to common street drugs such as marijuana, cocaine or heroin. While these drugs are highly addictive and abused, prescription drugs such as Oxycontin, Vicodin, Xanax, Valium and Percocet continue to be increasingly abused.

These common brand name drugs are being sold by drug dealers, school classmates, co-workers, and stolen from family members. The abusers often visit several doctors and emergency rooms in a short time period and lie about receiving prescriptions from other doctors. The abuser claims a false injury and gives fictitious information to obtain their desired drug.

Other ways the abuser receives the drug is by simply forging or altering a prescription. In home workers such as handyman or service providers often have access to prescription medication inside your home. At times, the abuser or accomplice may work for the doctor and develop a scheme in which fake prescriptions are called in and approved.

A continuously rising problem for law enforcement is the volume of reported prescription thefts. The abuser has become so addicted to the drug of choice over a long period of time that a larger dose is needed to satisfy the craving. The abuser then contacts local police and makes a false theft report.

It is the intention of the Kettering Police Department to increase public awareness about this growing problem and to work with pharmacists and health professionals so that abuse and deaths can be minimized and resources are better utilized.

Families should educate children about the dangers of drug abuse, monitor your child's behavior and keep drugs secured.

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