

A CAUTIONARY TALE: SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS OF KRATOM USE

The Shadow Behind the Leaf: The fight against these gas station drugs continues in Georgia. We recently filed a lawsuit after our client passed away due to Kratom Usage.

Atlanta (June 11, 2024) - Beasley Allen recently filed a case against a web of business entities and individuals involved in importing and selling Kratom after the tragic passing of our client, Jennifer Williams.

In the bustling wellness market of the United States, a Southeast Asian plant called Kratom has sparked a nationwide debate. Extracted from the *Mitragyna speciosa* tree, Kratom is celebrated for its natural energizing properties and its ability to mimic opioid effects without synthetic alternatives. Yet, amidst the growing popularity, concerns over its safety have surfaced.

Williams consumed Kratom under the impression of its safety. The ensuing lawsuit accuses these business entities and individuals of knowingly promoting Kratom without proper health warnings.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved Kratom for medicinal use, leaving it unregulated on a federal level. This lack of oversight has allowed these unscrupulous businesses and individuals, the largest importers of Kratom nationwide, including the OPMS and Remarkable Herbs brands, to flourish. Numerous individuals have been seriously injured or killed following exposure to Kratom. These businesses and individuals failed to disclose any risk information on the product packaging, including that Kratom is as addictive as opioids and that usage can lead to seizures. Even basic information like appropriate dosing was absent.

At the center of the storm are Peyton Palaio and Mark Reilly, figures with a history in the synthetic cannabinoid market, also known as “spice.” They stand accused of creating a web of LLCs, which we refer to as the Kratom Enterprise, primarily in Wyoming, to obscure their involvement in the Kratom trade.

Investigative efforts, such as those by the Tampa Bay Times, have revealed Kratom Enterprise’s use of secretive communication and complex corporate structures, which are challenging regulatory tracking and enforcement.

The extent these individuals have gone to obscure their identities and the identities and locations of the business entities through which they operate is remarkable and is a definite red flag that these individuals knew that Kratom was not safe when they first started importing and marketing it in the United States.

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As the legal battle unfolds, the story of the Kratom Enterprise serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unregulated supplements. It underscores the urgent need for clear regulatory frameworks to protect consumers from potentially harmful products and stresses the importance of informed decisions in the health and wellness industry.

We will continue to fight for our clients and hold these companies accountable for their part in marketing and selling these unsafe products.

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