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## **MEDIA RELEASE – MARCH 26, 2019 EASTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIRST DEGREE STRICT LIABILITY**

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Anthony P. Kearns, III, announced that Richard J. Ricciardi, age 47, of Easton, PA, pleaded guilty to first degree Strict Liability for a Drug Induced Death. Prosecutor Kearns stated: "The Hunterdon County Grand Jury indicted Mr. Ricciardi on June 28, 2018, for first degree Strict Liability for a Drug Induced Death, in connection with a fatal heroin and fentanyl overdose death that occurred in Clinton Township on May 28, 2018, and he has now entered a plea for that crime."

Mr. Ricciardi will appear before the Honorable Angela F. Borkowski, J.S.C., for sentencing on May 3, 2019. Prosecutor Kearns added, "The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office will continue to use all resources available to seek out and prosecute those who deal or distribute drugs in Hunterdon County. We have witnessed too many deaths and too much pain caused by the terrible drug epidemic that has swept this country. Those responsible for dealing drugs that result in a fatal overdose will be brought to justice and prosecuted."

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010, going online at [www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com](http://www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com) or through the free "P3 Tips" smartphone app. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.

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