

**DA: 2 charged in scheme to smuggle fentanyl-laced documents to NYC's Rikers Island from Staten Island Courthouse**

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On Thursday, Feb. 22, District Attorney Michael E. McMahon announced charges against two individuals in connection with an alleged scheme involving court documents laced with narcotics to be transferred to Rikers Island. (Staten Island Advance)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Two men have been charged in a “first-of-its-kind case” of lacing court documents with narcotics in an effort to move the drugs to Rikers Island, Staten Island District Attorney Michael. E. McMahon announced on Thursday.

Adam Kamagate, and Curtis Braswell, both 37, are alleged to have transferred court paperwork infused in liquid fentanyl, cocaine and PCP inside the Staten Island Courthouse in an effort to move the drugs onto Rikers Island, where Kamagate is doing time for the overdose death of his infant son.

Both face multiple charges, including criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminal sale of a controlled substance, promoting prison contraband and reckless endangerment, McMahon said in a statement.

“As the fentanyl crisis rages across our nation and here at home, we are all too familiar with the lengths those involved in the drug trade will go to avoid detection,” McMahon said in a statement. “But this plot was a new and terrible surprise.”

The pair’s “depraved creativity,” was ultimately no match for the DA’s staff and its partners in the Department of Correction, McMahon said. Through “incredible investigative work,” they rooted out a plan and now intend to hold them fully accountable while sending a message to the rest of the city and nation of this new threat, McMahon said.

The scheme was discovered in September 2023, as Department of Correction investigators confiscated documents being transferred from Braswell to Kamagate, after learning of the plot through phone calls made by Kamagate on Rikers Island. The phone calls revealed at least two other incidents in which the two attempted to carry out similar transfers earlier in the summer, prosecutors said.

Kamagate most recently lived on Hamilton Street in Stapleton, while Braswell is from Albany, according to a source.

Kamagate was already in custody, having been arrested and arraigned in 2023 on charges that include manslaughter, criminally-negligent homicide and

criminal possession of a controlled substance, following the overdose death of his 16-month-old son, Sakani.

The boy's death was ruled a homicide after it was determined that the baby fatally overdosed on illegal drugs, according to authorities. Sakani died of acute intoxication by the combined effects of fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl and cocaine, a source at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner told the Advance/SILive.com.

"Despite standing accused of the horrific and tragic overdose death of his infant son while under his care one year ago, Kamagate remained shamelessly engaged in the drug trade, and is now accused of peddling a poison 100 times stronger than morphine in our courthouse," McMahon said. "While I will always seek to find alternative, rehabilitative sentences for those battling addiction illness, we will never relent in pursuing stiff consequences for those who seek to profit off the pain of those with substance use disorders."

Kamagate was arraigned on Wednesday and was remanded without bail.

Braswell was arraigned Thursday and bail was set in the amount of \$1 million cash or \$3 million bond.

Attorneys for the defendants did not immediately respond to a request for comment.