



Huntsville drug treatment facility fined \$95,000 by U.S., couldn't account for 3,400 Methadone doses



By [Brian Lawson | blawson@al.com](mailto:blawson@al.com)

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HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- A Huntsville drug treatment facility has agreed to a \$95,000 federal fine over problems with its record-keeping and failing to account for more than 3,400 units of Methadone.

Methadone is often used in drug treatment to move people addicted to opiates to a less dangerous drug, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The fine was levied against Metro Treatment of Alabama, which was doing business as Huntsville Metro Treatment Center, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's office in Birmingham.

The record-keeping and inventory violations were cited after a regulatory investigation in 2012, the news release said.

"The \$95,000 penalty in this matter represents the largest penalty ever collected in Alabama in a DEA drug diversion investigation," said First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama John England III. "It is imperative that treatment centers which handle controlled substances keep clear and current records on the shipments and use of those narcotics so that they can be tracked and not diverted for illegal use in our communities."

The U.S. Attorney's Office said the facility is registered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and is "one of several narcotic treatment centers" in Alabama owned by Colonial Management Group.

"The settlement agreement comes in response to allegations by the DEA that the Huntsville center failed to maintain complete and accurate records and inventories of controlled substances dispensed or received," the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

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