

Lynchburg man gets 6 years in marijuana case

Wife also expected to plead guilty in drug bust, get 11 years with all time suspended

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A Lynchburg man was sentenced Friday to six years in prison in connection with one of the largest marijuana seizures by city police in recent years.

Patrick Ricardo Steptoe, 30, pleaded guilty to five felonies in Lynchburg Circuit Court.

Steptoe and his wife, Takeria

Renee Steptoe, 29, were arrested Feb. 16 after authorities found 19 pounds of marijuana and more than \$95,000 in cash while searching a house at 1016 Ardmore Drive, the Lynchburg Police Department said.

Both were charged with offenses including possession with intent to distribute, firearms violations and child endangerment. Two children, ages 5 and 12, were in the

home at the time, according to authorities.

A grand jury in August indicted Patrick Steptoe on charges of possession of more than five pounds of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm as a convicted felon, possession of a firearm while possessing a scheduled substance, possession of a Schedule I substance and two counts of child endangerment.



P. Steptoe



T. Steptoe

He pleaded guilty to all but the charge of possession of a firearm while possessing a scheduled substance, which was dropped in

exchange for his plea.

Chief Deputy Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee outlined evidence that would have been presented in Steptoe's trial, which was set for next week.

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