

Man allegedly sells salt instead of methamphetamine but gets arrested anyway

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Though an undercover informant didn't receive any illicit drugs during a "buy" for police on July 9 in Austin, the man who allegedly did the alleged sale got arrested anyway.

Joshua Lee Thomas, 30, has been charged in Scott Superior Court with one count of dealing in a substance represented to be a controlled substance, a Class D felony, for his alleged part in a scheme to take \$60 from a police informant for a bag of salt.

The informant had reportedly been told by a woman that Thomas had methamphetamine at a Clay Street house. The undercover informant entered the house and said Thomas was seen sitting at a kitchen table weighing white substance in a baggy on a small scale.

The informant said an argument ensued over if the money was to be handed over before the substance was provided. After the transaction was made, the informant said the baggy was handed over, but the contents looked like salt.

When the informant told Thomas about the contents, Thomas allegedly reacted by fleeing the residence on a bicycle. The informant got into a car and located the officer assisting in the "buy," Deputy Jeremy Arnold of the Sheriff's Department.

Hearing the story, Deputy Arnold began looking for Thomas. He located the suspect at a house on Hill Street.

While he was transporting the man to the Scott County Security Center, Deputy Arnold said Thomas told him that he and another individual decided to sell the informant fake methamphetamine and split the money.

Thomas' initial court hearing was held on July 12. Bail was fixed at \$15,000 corporate surety or 10% cash. Thomas was released on home detention.

His jury trial is scheduled for October 8 in Scott Superior Court.