



# RONALD K. ELKINS

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Suboxone ® tablet

## WISE COUNTY, VA DRUG-RELATED MASS ARREST

Wise—On Wednesday, April 15, 2009, the Wise County Sheriff's Department, Southwest Narcotics Task Force, Virginia State Police, Big Stone Gap Police Department, and the Town of Appalachia Police Department combined to conduct a Mass Arrest of 31 offenders who were indicted by the Multi-Jurisdiction Grand Jury. This Mass Arrest targets individuals in the towns of Big Stone Gap and Appalachia. These arrests stem from an ongoing investigation by the Southwest Narcotics Task Force. Since 2005, the investigation has resulted in over 450 arrests. According to Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Suzanne Kerney-Quillen, this investigation has revealed an increasing number of cases involving distribution of buprenorphine, the generic name for Suboxone®, which is of considerable concern to the Drug Task Force. Buprenorphine or Suboxone ® is a medication marketed to treat people with opioid dependency. Twelve of the 31 individuals targeted in this Mass Arrest are charged with distribution of buprenorphine. "We are lucky to have law enforcement agencies in Wise County that work so well together. A 3 year investigation takes a lot of time, manpower, teamwork, and dedication. I appreciate all of their efforts," said Commonwealth's Attorney Ron Elkins. For more information, please contact Ron Elkins or Suzanne Kerney-Quillen at the Wise County Commonwealth's Attorney's office at 276-328-9406.