

The Catastrophe That Is Fentanyl

By Joseph M. Considine, P.A.

We've talked about the fact that Fentanyl is the drug that killed music icon Prince and is killing people at an alarming rate in Florida. It's even deadlier than heroin. At a talk I gave recently on the Marchman Act, representatives of Emergency Medical Services in Palm Beach County told me that there are **8-10 deaths weekly** in 2016 in Palm Beach County alone.

8-10 deaths each and every week in Palm Beach County.

Under pressure from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) physicians are getting more and more reluctant to prescribe opioids such as hydrocodone. As prescription opioids get more and more difficult and expensive to procure, people addicted to them have begun turning to heroin—a shift **that's created an epidemic of heroin use** in whole new groups of people. Now, a new opioid is rising in use and overdose.

TWICE AS DEADLY AS HEROIN?

No. Not twice. If I told you that a drug was twice as powerful as heroin, that would give you pause, right? How about a drug that's three times deadlier than heroin? Unthinkable, right? Get this: according to the DEA, **Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, is 50-100 times more powerful** than morphine, and 25-50 times more potent than heroin. Fentanyl's presence in communities like West Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Stuart, Ft. Pierce, Tampa and Orlando seems to be rising sharply, which means that, given its potency, deaths from the drug are also rising.

In 2014, over 25,000 Americans died of opioids or heroin: 16,000 from opiates and another 8,000 from heroin.

While our EMS personnel state that we lose 8-10 people per week in Palm Beach County, authorities are not sure how many people are dying nationally from fentanyl overdoses every week. The numbers are clearly climbing sharply in the United States and Canada. Fentanyl is often, unbeknownst to the consumer, mixed with drugs like cocaine and heroin since it's cheaper than either of them, and much stronger.

Let us know how if we can help you get your loved ones and friends into treatment recovery from drug addiction and the catastrophe of opiate addiction or alcoholism through the use of Florida's landmark Marchman Act. Just call me at 561-655-8081.

This entry was posted in [Divorce](#) on [July 8, 2016](#) by [Joe Considine](#).