

# Notice of press conference regarding KRATOM DEATHS, LAWSUIT, AND HARASSMENT OF GRIEVING MOTHERS

Date: September 12, 2023 at 11:00 AM

Location: Florida Historic Capital Steps (400 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32399)

**Tallahassee, Florida:** A grieving mother is warning the public about kratom, a drug she claims killed her 23-year-old son. Kratom is openly sold in gas stations, smoke shops, and health stores throughout Florida. It is sourced from trees in Southeast Asia and marketed as an all-natural replacement for energy drinks and painkillers. Users also claim it is a legal substitute for hard drugs; critics call it “gas station heroin.”

Susan Eppard recently filed a wrongful death lawsuit in Florida for the death of her son, Matthew Eller. She is represented by the national law firms of Wetherington Law Firm and Ashby Thelen Lowry, who have handled a majority of kratom injury and death claims throughout the United States. They are partnering with Florida law firm Clark Fountain to file suit against a group of Florida-based companies they claim are producing Boosted Kratom—Premier Manufacturing Products, LLC, Atofil, LLC, Biobotanical, LLC, Nutrasynth, LLC, and JML Wholesale, Inc.

Attorney Don Fountain emphasized that people who start taking kratom do not know that it is a drug. “People see kratom next to candy and energy drinks and think it is harmless. The reality is that it is an addictive drug that can kill.” Attorney Drew Ashby says, “Companies smuggle kratom into the US and turn the raw kratom leaves into this lethal gas station heroin.”

Attorney Matt Wetherington says, “Grieving mothers, addicts trying to get help, and even legislators have been subjected to harassment and threats for attempting to warn the public about kratom.” This press conference will cover Florida’s recently passed Kratom Protection Act, the wrongful death suit, and mothers of children killed by kratom will share their experience and the threats they have received.



Kratom sold in energy drink display

