



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

### Media Release

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**From:** Cpl. Michael Terry  
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3608

**Re:** Chinese National on U.S. Work Visa Arrested on Possession of Ketamine with  
Intent to Sell Charge – 2026-0-0126370

**Date:** February 11, 2026

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On 02-10-2026, detectives with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit executed a residential search warrant at 5043 Tiburon Avenue in Spring Hill following information that an individual at the residence was receiving a large quantity of ketamine hydrochloride through the mail from outside of the United States.

During the execution of the search warrant, detectives secured the residence and took the suspect, identified as **Ting Zheng DOB/01-17-1990**, into custody without incident.

A search of the residence revealed a package containing 20 large wax candles. Further examination determined the candles had been hollowed out and used to conceal multiple bags of a white, crystal-like substance. Field testing of the substance indicated a positive result for ketamine.

After the ketamine was removed from the candles originally concealing it, the total weight of the substance was determined to be approximately 11.198 pounds.

Ting Zheng was arrested and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center, where he was charged with **Possession with Intent to Sell Ketamine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**.

Ting Zheng is a citizen of China who is currently in the United States on a work visa. Due to the nature of the charges, contact was made with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

ICE advised they are aware of the arrest and will be monitoring Ting Zheng's case for potential immigration enforcement action, including the possibility of a future detainer.

Ketamine is a powerful dissociative anesthetic that is legally used in medical and veterinary settings for anesthesia, pain management, and certain emergency procedures.

In recent years, it has also been prescribed in controlled medical environments for treatment-resistant depression and other mental health conditions.

Outside of legitimate medical use, ketamine is frequently abused as an illicit street drug due to its hallucinogenic and sedative effects. Ketamine has also been commonly associated with drug-facilitated sexual assaults, often referred to as a “date rape” drug, as it can cause confusion, memory loss, and physical incapacitation when ingested without a person’s knowledge or consent.

This investigation remains ongoing as detectives continue to determine the origin of the narcotics, the scope of distribution, and what Ting Zheng intended to do with the ketamine.



**Ting Zheng**

*Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips*

*If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!*

*Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or \*\*TIPS from a cell phone.*

*You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .*

*You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!*