

Parents fight designer drugs following son's death

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- Andrew Perez

MOBILE, Ala. (WALA) - Investigators continue to work a deputy-involved shooting that landed one teen in jail.

The family of Devin Evans told FOX10 they believed the teen was under the influence of 'Spice', or synthetic marijuana, when he stole his grandmother's shotgun and later opened fire on a sheriff's deputy.

Authorities said Evans has no criminal history and his family added that he was acting erratically prior to the shooting.

As deputies work to find the source of the 'Spice', the incident has sparked conversation about the dangers of designer drugs.

"No family, no mother, no father should have to open the front door of their home and find their child fighting for their life because they had used a handgun to end their life," said Lance Dyer.

Dyers' son was only 14-years-old when authorities say he shot himself during a psychotic episode brought on by using 'Synthetic Poison' in March 2012.

[Click here to reach the Dakota Dyer Foundation](#)

[Click here to contact Lance Dyer](#)

Dakota was an A/B student with no criminal history who played for the local football team in Georgia.

Dyer said after finding his son had shot himself inside the home, they learned through social media sites and text messages that Dakota's friends had repeatedly asked the teen about trying a 'new legal drug'.

Lance said for some time the teen said no, but said Dakota made some bad decisions March 8 and gave in to the comments.

"These items are targeted to the children who walk away from marijuana; would never try meth or cocaine. These are targeted to children that are anti drug, but their curiosity gets them," he said.

Packets of 'Spice' are often given playful names - like 'Scooby Snacks' - and passed off as a legal drug.

[Get more on Drug Education here](#)

Since the tragedy, Dyer and his wife have made it their life's mission to curb this dangerous trend and save other parents the heartache related to 'Spice'.

"I want to educate young people of the dangers of these synthetic - people call them synthetic drugs - I call them synthetic poisons. That's what they are," Dyer said.

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