

# Could Compounding Pharmacy Be Charged Criminally for Meningitis Outbreak?

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[Criminal charges](#) could be filed in response to the growing number of meningitis deaths tied to drugs made by a Massachusetts compounding pharmacy. Criminal investigators from the Food and Drug Administration recently searched the New England Compounding Center, as part of the investigation into the deadly outbreak.

The FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations investigates suspected violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and other statutes governing FDA-regulated products. Common violations investigated by the OIG include the manufacture and sale of counterfeit or unapproved drugs, product tampering, and illegal importation of FDA-regulated products.

The warrant to search the New England Compounding Center obtained by the FDA is under seal so it is unclear what investigators were looking for. Officials in Massachusetts have alleged that the company illegally sold large quantities of medications without individual patient name for each prescription. Questions have also been raised about the sterilization procedures used at the facility.

Although the company is reportedly cooperating with state and federal agencies, the New England Compounding Center and its top executives could still face criminal charges, particularly if they misled authorities or the public about the safety of the drugs in question.

Even if they are ultimately absolved, criminal charges would compound the company's legal troubles by bolstering the efforts of infected patients and their families to pursue civil damages.

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