



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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AUGUST 26, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILLARD FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Willard, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Mark Anderson, 44, of Willard, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to two years in federal prison without parole.

On May 9, 2003, **Anderson** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357 caliber revolver, a Mossberg 20-gauge shotgun and a Marlin Glenfield .22 caliber rifle on Sept. 26, 2001, in Greene County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Anderson** has a 1993 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Anderson was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 18, 2002, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow