



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELKLAND MAN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING GUN LAW

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

Darrell L. Atkins, 49, of Elkland, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to two years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On March 31, 2003, **Atkins** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Atkins** admitted that he was in possession of a .22 caliber semi-automatic rifle on Aug. 20, 2002, in Dallas County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to possess any firearm or ammunition. **Atkins** has a 1983 criminal felony conviction for attempted aggravated assault and a 1988 criminal felony conviction for possession of marijuana.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Dallas 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

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