



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRINCETON MAN INDICTED FOR KIDNAPING, CARJACKING, FIREARMS VIOLATIONS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Princeton, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for kidnaping, carjacking, and firearms violations.

**Raymond L. Button**, 73, of Princeton, Mo., was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint filed against Button on Nov. 5, 2003.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Button** kidnaped a victim on Nov. 4, 2003, and transported him from Missouri to Iowa. **Button** allegedly kidnaped the victim for the purpose of aiding in his escape.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that on the same day **Button** stole a 1999 Dodge Ram pick-up truck from that victim. **Button** took the truck by means of force and violation or by intimidation, the indictment alleges, and at or during the time **Button** took the truck, he intended to cause death or serious bodily injury.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Button** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357 caliber revolver, which he used during the crimes of violence alleged in Counts One and Two of the indictment.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Button** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357 caliber revolver and a Glock .40 caliber pistol on Nov. 4, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Button** has a 1952 criminal felony conviction for murder and 1983 criminal felony convictions for robbery and possession of an incendiary device.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Button** was arrested after law enforcement officers pursued him on US Highway 65 in the stolen vehicle. **Button** eventually stopped at a roadblock in Iowa and, after placing the two firearms on the vehicle's dashboard, was taken into custody.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. It was investigated by the Mercer County, Mo., Sheriff's Department; the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Department; the Missouri State Highway Patrol; the Iowa State Patrol; the Wayne County, Iowa, Sheriff's Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive, and NITRO (Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation).

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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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