



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

NOVEMBER 12, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILLICOTHE MAN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL FIREARMS LAW

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Chillicothe, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating federal firearms law.

Michael Dewayne Cooper, 33, of Chillicothe, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to three years and one month in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Nov. 10, 2003, **Cooper** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Cooper** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver on June 23, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Cooper** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Howard County, Mo., and his 1995 criminal felony conviction for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident in Randolph County, Mo.

Cooper was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on August 23, 2002, in Jefferson City, Graves said.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Boonville Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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