



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., FATHER AND SON INDICTED ON SEPARATE FIREARMS CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a father and son from Higginsville, Mo., were indicted by a federal grand jury today in separate and unrelated cases.

* **William Earl Cox**, 48, of Higginsville, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **William Earl Cox** was in possession of a Ruger 9mm pistol on April 11, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **William Earl Cox** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon; four 1984 criminal felony convictions for possession of illegal narcotics with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, cultivation of marijuana, and possession of a sawed-off shotgun; and two 1981 criminal felony convictions for possession of illegal narcotics with intent to distribute and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **William Earl Cox** threatened another person with the intent to influence, delay or prevent the testimony of a confidential information in an official proceeding.

* **William Colby Cox**, 19, of Higginsville, Mo., was charged with being in possession of a sawed-off shotgun in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **William Colby Cox** was in possession of a weapon made from a Revelation/Springfield 20-gauge shotgun that was less than 26 inches in overall length with a barrel less than 18 inches, which was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in today's indictments 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.

Both cases are being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Bruce \Rhoades. They were investigated by the Lafayette County Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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