



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**DECEMBER 3, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LAKE LOTAWANA MAN CONVICTED ON METH, FIREARM CHARGES**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Lake Lotawana, Mo., man has been convicted by a federal jury on charges related to manufacturing methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of several firearms.

**Gregory C. Curnett**, 38, of Lake Lotawana, Mo., was found guilty on Dec. 2, 2003, of all charges contained in a three-count federal indictment.

**Curnett** was arrested on March 23, 2003, Graves said, at which time law enforcement officers found numerous items used to manufacture methamphetamine, including black iodine, as well as several firearms at his residence.

Following the presentation of evidence in **Curnett's** trial, Graves said, the jury in U.S. District Court in Kansas City deliberated about an hour and a half before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner, ending a two-day trial.

The federal jury found **Curnett** guilty of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine on March 23, 2002, and of being in possession of iodine, intending to use it to manufacture methamphetamine. Law enforcement officers found two five-gallon barrels that each contained an amount of black iodine pellets, a precursor chemical, underneath the kitchen sink during their search of **Curnett's** residence on March 23, 2002. They also found a large amount of high-quality glassware and other items used to manufacture methamphetamine.

The federal jury also found **Curnett** guilty of being in possession of three firearms that were found at his residence during the search by law enforcement officers. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Curnett** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of

methamphetamine and carrying a concealed weapon in McDonald County, Mo., for which he is currently on state probation. On March 23, 2003, **Curnett** was in possession of a .22 caliber revolver that was found hanging on a hook on the wall in the bedroom, a Sturm Ruger & Co. 9 mm semi-automatic handgun that was found in the bottom drawer of a kitchen cabinet, and a Smith and Wesson .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun that was found under a sofa cushion in the living room.

As a result of his conviction, **Curnett** could be subject to a statutory maximum sentence of up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1.5 million. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades and Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregg Coonrod. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Lake Lotawana, Mo., Police Department.

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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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