



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAKE LOTAWANA MAN INDICTED ON METH, FIREARM CHARGES

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

Gregory C. Curnett, 37, of Lake Lotawana, Mo., was charged in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Curnett** attempted to manufacture methamphetamine on March 23, 2002.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Curnett** was in possession of iodine, intending to use it to manufacture methamphetamine, on March 23, 2002.

Counts Three, Four and Five of the federal indictment allege that **Curnett** was in possession of three firearms. 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. The indictment alleges, in three separate counts, that on March 23, 2003, **Curnett** was in possession of a .22 caliber revolver, a Sturm Ruger & Co. 9 mm semi-automatic handgun, and a Smith and Wesson .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun.

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 Jeffrey Valenti. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Lake Lotawana, Mo., Police 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
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow