



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PURDY MAN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL FIREARMS LAW

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

Robert G. Gates, 52, of Purdy, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to five years and 10 months for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Sept. 4, 2003, **Gates** pleaded guilty to being in possession of 12 rifles and two shotguns in Barry County, Mo. Those firearms were located either in his residence or in a dog box in the bed of his pickup truck on May 12, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Gates** has 1971 criminal felony convictions for theft by deception and passing a worthless check in McPherson County, Kan., a 1976 criminal felony conviction for stealing in Newton County, Mo., a 1981 criminal felony conviction for stealing in Newton County, and 1997 criminal felony convictions for first degree statutory rape and second degree statutory rape in Barry County.

Gates was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 9, 2003, in Springfield.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Doug Bunch. It was investigated by the Barry County, Mo., Sheriff's Department 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