



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

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION, INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METH FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE POLICE CHASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a man pleaded guilty in federal court today to possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

John Mark Gay, 41, who has no permanent address, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Gay** admitted that he possessed with intent to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine on April 9, 2003, in Jackson County, Mo.

Prior to his initial arrest, **Gay** was driving a 1995 Ford Windstar, which law enforcement officers observed traveling 10 miles above the posted speed limit. When law enforcement officers attempted to stop the van, it gained speed, traveling through the yard of a private residence on Rogers Circle, in Independence, Mo. The vehicle was pursued throughout the Independence neighborhood and nearly struck a law enforcement officer's patrol car. At 35th Street and Noland Road, the vehicle ran a red light in front of Truman High School and was clocked driving over 100 miles per hour. The van ultimately drove onto a sidewalk and back onto the road and then came to a stop at Eighth and Carlise streets.

After stopping the vehicle, law enforcement officers took **Gay** into custody along with another passenger. The methamphetamine was discovered to be in **Gay's** possession after his arrest in an amount of 23 grams.

Gay was originally charged with possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in

an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 6, 2003, in Kansas City.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Gay** may be subject to a sentence of not less than five years and up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$2 million fine. 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 Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. The case was investigated by the Independence, 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