



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING ECSTASY

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was charged in federal court today for distributing ecstasy.

William J. Gilbert, 19, of Springfield, Mo., was charged in a criminal complaint for distributing ecstasy on four separate occasions between March 22, 2003, and May 6, 2003. **Gilbert** also is charged with possession with intent to distribute ecstasy and illegally possessing a loaded Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun on May 19, 2003.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, Graves said, **Gilbert** allegedly distributed 682 ecstasy pills for \$11,200, between March 22, 2003, and May 6, 2003.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the criminal complaint 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 Robyn L. McKee. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Springfield, 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