

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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KC RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF METH INGREDIENT PSEUDOEPHEDRINE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced in federal court today for possessing pseudoephedrine, an ingredient used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Robert D. Hall, 45, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 21, 2002, **Hall** pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 11, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Hall** admitted that he knowingly possessed a total of 65.44 grams of pseudoephedrine on Feb. 4, 2002 and Sept. 17, 2001.

Co-defendant **Cynthia J. DeWitt**, 42, of Kansas City, Mo., also has pleaded guilty in this case. On Nov. 13, 2002, **DeWitt** pleaded guilty and admitted that she also was in possession of pseudoephedrine on Feb. 4, 2002.

Hall and **DeWitt** shared a residence at 4837 Farley, in Kansas City. Both co-defendants agreed to a consensual search of the home, which is when law enforcement officers discovered the pseudoephedrine, Graves said.

As a result of her guilty plea, **DeWitt** is subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole. She also may be subject to a fine of up to \$250,000. The 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 U.S. Probation Office.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lajuana M. Counts. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the United States Marshal's Service.

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