



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

SEVENTH DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN CONSPIRACY TO MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTE METH IN NORTHERN MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Novinger, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today, the last of seven northern Missouri residents indicted for conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Jerry E. Hilderman, 39, of Novinger, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to 14 years in federal prison without parole.

On April 16, 2003, **Hilderman** pleaded guilty to conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine between Sept. 7, 2001, and Sept. 19, 2002. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Hilderman** admitted that he manufactured methamphetamine after others supplied him with precursor materials. In exchange for this service, **Hilderman** distributed methamphetamine to his suppliers.

Hilderman is the last of seven co-defendants to be sentenced in the methamphetamine conspiracy. All of the defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2002, and have each pleaded guilty to conspiring to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Wayne J. Gregory, 41, of Worthington, Mo., was sentenced on July 8, 2003, to 13 years in federal prison without parole.

David L. Mullin, 22, of Kirksville, Mo., was sentenced on July 8, 2003, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Martin L. Robbins, 28, of Queen City, Mo., was sentenced on July 1, 2003, to four years and three months in federal prison without parole.

Cherie L. Johns, 47, Novinger, Mo.; was sentenced on June 4, 2003, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Karanda Embry, 22, of Novinger, Mo., was sentenced on May 29, 2003, to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

Edward W. Robbins, 52, of Queen City, Mo., was sentenced on May 23, 2003, to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Putnam County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the North Missouri Drug Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Adair County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Schulyer County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Kirksville, Mo., Police Department, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol, with assistance from the Knox County, Mo., Sheriff's Department canine unit.

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