



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAYTOWN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAINTAINING METH LAB IN HIS HOME

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Raytown, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to maintaining a methamphetamine laboratory in his home.

David J. Hoerl, Jr., 38, of Raytown, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to maintaining a place of residence for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing and storing methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Hoerl** admitted that he allowed others to use his residence to manufacture methamphetamine in exchange for finished methamphetamine. **Hoerl** allowed his residence, located at 11008 E. 72nd St., to be used to manufacture methamphetamine between Aug. 1, 2002, and Oct. 2, 2002. The methamphetamine lab was discovered after **Hoerl** consented to a search of his Raytown residence.

Hoerl was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 25, 2003, in Kansas City.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Hoerl** may be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. 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. Attorneys Jeff Valenti and Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force.

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