



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## OPERATION WEBSLINGER

### **KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IMPORTING INGREDIENT TO MANUFACTURE 'DATE RAPE' DRUG**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man pleaded guilty in federal court today to importing gamma butyrolactone (GBL) with the intent to manufacture gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB).

**Chad Holte**, 30, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to illegally importing GBL from Canada.

By pleading guilty, **Holte** admitted that between Aug. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2002, he ordered GBL from an Internet Web site, for the purpose of manufacturing GHB.

**Holte** was originally charged with importing the illegal drug into Kansas City in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court on Sept. 19, 2002.

GBL is a GHB analog, Graves explained, meaning that it has a similar chemical structure to GHB. GBL metabolizes into GHB when it is ingested and it can be used in the manufacture of GHB, Graves said. Although the drug is legal in some instances, federal law prohibits the sale of GBL for human consumption.

The drug is odorless, colorless and can cause drowsiness, dizziness, loss of consciousness and loss of inhibition, Graves said.

Today's guilty plea is part of a nationwide investigation called Operation Webslinger, which targets the illegal Internet trafficking of "date rape" drugs. The investigation has resulted in 115 arrests in 84 cities across the United States and Canada.

The investigation began as a result of increasing seizures of GBL. It represents law

enforcement's most significant national operation targeting organizations trafficking GHB and GBL.

As a result of his guilty plea, **Holte** faces up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. **Holte's** 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.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)