



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS AVA, MO., MAN FOR POSSESSING STOLEN FIREARM, METH

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Ava, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury today for violating federal firearms and narcotics laws.

Michael W. Johnson, 36, of Ava, Mo., was found guilty today of being a felon in possession of a two firearms, one of which was stolen, and possession of methamphetamine by a jury in the U.S. District Court in Springfield. Following **Johnson's** trial, Graves said, the jury deliberated one hour and 15 minutes before returning the guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner. The trial began Monday, Oct. 27, 2003.

The jury found **Johnson** guilty of all four counts of an indictment. Each of the charges was related to violations of federal firearms and narcotics laws.

Johnson was convicted of being in possession of a 30-06 caliber Remington rifle on Jan. 14 and 15, 2002, in Douglas County, Mo. Evidence presented in court showed that the firearm was used in a drive-by shooting in Douglas County. Under federal law, Graves explained it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Johnson** has 1986 criminal felony convictions for stealing and second degree burglary in Douglas County, 1988 criminal felony convictions for second degree robbery and auto theft in Jackson County, Mo., and a 1997 criminal felony conviction for stealing in Ozark County, Mo.

The jury also found **Johnson** guilty of possessing a stolen .22 caliber magnum Marlin rifle with ammunition and possessing methamphetamine on April 29, 2003.

Johnson was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 9, 2003, in Springfield.

As a result of today's conviction, **Johnson** may face at least 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$250,000 fine. **Johnson'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.

This case is being prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Douglas County, Mo., Sheriff's 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