



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEBRASKA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE 1,000 KILOS OR MORE OF MARIJUANA**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Omaha, Neb., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana.

**Darris L. Johnson**, 34, of Omaha, Neb., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to conspiracy to distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of marijuana between Jan. 1, 1997, and Oct. 2, 2002. The guilty plea includes a forfeiture count, Graves added, which requires **Johnson** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the conspiracy to distribute marijuana. This includes more than \$6 million in cash and property located in El Paso, Texas. Graves said the forfeiture amount was determined using a price of \$475 for each pound of marijuana illegally distributed in the conspiracy.

By pleading guilty, **Johnson** admitted that between Jan. 1, 1997, until Oct. 2, 2002, he obtained marijuana, which was transported from Mexico to his suppliers in Kansas City, Mo., which he would distribute to his own customers in Omaha.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Johnson** faces a sentence of up to life in prison, plus a \$4 million 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.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force.

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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)