



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SPRINGFIELD MAN CHARGED WITH FIREARM, DRUG CRIMES**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield man was charged in federal court today with violating federal firearm and drug laws.

**Ashley S. Joyner**, 27, of Springfield, Mo., was charged in a three-count criminal complaint filed today in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

Count One of the criminal complaint alleges that **Joyner** intentionally distributed methamphetamine on July 19, 2003, in Greene County, Mo.

Count Two alleges that he knowingly possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on July 22, 2003.

Count Three of the criminal complaint alleges that **Joyner** was in possession of a firearm in furtherance of the offense of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a person to be in possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. The criminal complaint alleges that **Joyner** was in possession of a Ruger Super Red Hawk .44 magnum revolver, while also being in possession of methamphetamine on July 22, 2003.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the criminal complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn McKee. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

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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)