



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD PRISONER INDICTED FOR ESCAPING

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., prisoner was indicted by a federal grand jury today for escaping from United States custody.

Robert Lee Nelson, 35, who was in federal custody at the United States Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting today in Springfield.

The federal indictment alleges that **Nelson** escaped from United States custody on July 28, 2003, from the medical center located in Springfield. He was confined to the medical center after being convicted for distributing heroin.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in today's indictment is simply an accusation and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy United States Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the United States Marshal's Service.

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