



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOPLIN FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Joplin, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm and being an unlawful user of a controlled substance.

Larry B. Painter, 42, of Joplin, was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to 15 years in federal prison without parole.

On June 13, 2003, **Painter** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Painter** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm pistol, a Llama 9 mm pistol, a Savage 30-06 caliber rifle, a Marlin .22 caliber rifle, and a Savage Arms 12-gauge shotgun on Dec. 6, 2001, in Jasper County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. It is also illegal, Graves said, for an unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. **Painter** has four prior criminal felony convictions for felony escape in 1981 in Howell County, Mo., forgery in 1998 in Sullivan County, Mo., forgery in 1998 in Greene County, Mo., and stealing in 1980 in Howell County.

Painter was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on Dec. 6, 2001, in Jasper County, Mo. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 27, 2002, in Springfield.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Joplin, Mo., Police 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