



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHWEST MISSOURI MAN INDICTED FOR MONEY LAUNDERING SCHEME TO HIDE MARIJUANA PROFITS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Hatfield, Mo., man has been indicted by a federal grand jury for his role in a money-laundering conspiracy that was allegedly designed to hide the proceeds of marijuana manufacturing.

Dennis A. Perkins, 41, of Hatfield, Mo., was charged in a 14-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Feb. 25, 2003. That indictment, which was sealed by the court, was unsealed and made public today upon **Perkins'** arrest and initial appearance in federal court.

The federal indictment charges **Perkins** with structuring financial transactions in order to evade federal reporting requirements. Graves explained that federal law requires any financial transaction greater than \$10,000 to be reported to the Internal Revenue Service. **Perkins** split his deposits and loan payments into separate transactions, Graves said, in order to evade that federal reporting requirement.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Perkins** was involved in the conspiracy to structure currency transactions at Farmers Bank of Northern Missouri (and on one occasion, at Citizen's Bank of Blythedale) between Jan. 1, 1998 and June 10, 1998. According to the indictment, **Perkins** arranged for the money to be held by a bank employee and deposited in such a manner that Currency Transaction Report would not be filed with the United States Department of the Treasury as required by law.

Eleven counts of the indictment allege that, on 11 separate instances between March 4, 1998 and June 10, 1998, **Perkins** made (or had others working in his behalf make) deposits or loan payments at Farmers Bank of Missouri that were structured for the purpose of evading

federal reporting requirements. One count alleges that, in addition, **Perkins** also gave approximately \$4,760 to another person to make a deposit at the Citizen's Bank of Blythedale, which was structured for the purpose of evading federal reporting requirements, on March 6, 1998. Those deposits and loan payments totaled \$72,680.

Count Thirteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Perkins**, having knowledge of the manufacture of marijuana, concealed that criminal activity by structuring deposits of money obtained from persons he knew to be involved in the manufacture of marijuana so as to defeat the filing of a currency transaction report.

Count Fourteen of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Perkins** to forfeit to the United States any property involved in the offenses that are alleged in the indictment, including approximately \$72,680 in cash.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment 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 Mark A. Miller. The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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