



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**DECEMBER 12, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BARRY COUNTY MAN CHARGED IN EXTORTION THREAT**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Barry County, Mo., man has been charged in federal court with making threats and extortion.

**Larry James Reynolds**, also known as Jamie Reynolds, 35, of Barry County, was charged in a two-count criminal complaint filed on Dec. 8, 2003, in U.S. District Court in Springfield. After being arrested by law enforcement officers yesterday, **Reynolds** appeared in federal court this morning for a detention hearing and remains in federal custody.

Count One of the federal complaint alleges that **Reynolds** participated in the use of extortion, threatening the use of violence and other criminal means to cause harm to another person in order to collect a disputed debt, and to punish another person for the non-payment of that claim.

Count Two of the federal complaint alleges that **Reynolds** used a telephone to threaten to intimidate another person and to threaten to unlawfully destroy, by fire, property belonging to that person.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Reynolds** telephoned the victim on Nov. 16, 2003, insisting that the victim owed **Reynolds'** mother \$200,000 or a house and car. **Reynolds'** mother had recently divorced the victim and sought a \$200,000 one-time payment as alimony. Instead, says the affidavit, the Barry County Circuit Court ordered a payment of \$30,000, which has been made. **Reynolds** is employed as a bail bondsman working in a business with his mother.

The affidavit alleges that **Reynolds** told the victim, "I'm going to put you down," unless he paid the money within two weeks. On Dec. 1, 2003, at approximately 4 a.m., a residence

owned by the victim burned. At approximately the same time, 250 bales of hay owned by the victim at a different location were lost due to fire. According to the affidavit, the Missouri State Fire Marshall suspected arson and began a criminal arson investigation.

The affidavit alleges that **Reynolds** called the victim again on Dec. 2, 2003. In that conversation, which was recorded by the victim, **Reynolds** allegedly told him to “give her (**Reynolds’** mother) what you owe her, or you’ll have nothing left.”

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the 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.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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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)