

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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NEOSHO MAN INDICTED FOR EXTORTION THREAT

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Neosho, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for making threats and extortion.

Larry James Reynolds, also known as Jamie Reynolds, 35, of Neosho, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Springfield.

Count One of the federal indictment 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 indictment 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.

Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint against Reynolds filed on Dec. 8, 2003.

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.

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

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