



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO., FELON SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm.

Kenneth Dale Sparks, 25, of Columbia, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 10, 2003, **Sparks** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Colt, Police Positive model, .38 caliber revolver on Dec. 6, 2003, in Boone County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Sparks** has a 2002 criminal felony for distribution/manufacture of a controlled substance.

Sparks was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 9, 2003, in Jefferson City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives 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