



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**DECEMBER 30, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CARTHAGE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Carthage, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

**Victor D. Strickland**, 43, of Carthage, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Strickland** admitted that he was in possession of a Taurus .357 magnum revolver together with ammunition on June 18, 2003, in Jasper County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Strickland** has a 1985 criminal felony conviction for assault in the first degree in Jasper County.

**Strickland** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 16, 2003, in Springfield.

Under federal law, **Strickland** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex C. Lewis. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Jasper County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Carthage, 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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)