



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MT. GROVE FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM FOLLOWING SHOOTING

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mt. Grove, Mo., man pleaded guilty today to being a felon in possession of a firearm after being arrested for shooting out the tire of a vehicle and hitting the driver with his shotgun.

Lester Bradley Thompson, 43, of Mt. Grove, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Thompson** admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun with ammunition on Aug. 2, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Thompson** has a 1985 criminal felony conviction for assault on a police officer with a firearm.

Thompson was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 14, 2003, in Springfield.

By pleading guilty, **Thompson** also admitted that he was found in possession of the firearm after law enforcement officers responded to his residence upon receiving a call of a shooting on Aug. 2, 2002.

Officers arrived at the scene and found two men injured, one with a head injury and another with a leg injury. Additionally, one of the men's vehicles had been damaged as a result of being shot, Graves said.

Officers then started toward **Thompson's** residence when he came out of the house and was taken into custody. **Thompson** was placed in a patrol car and officers then retrieved the

shotgun and a spent shotgun shell from the residence.

Thompson later admitted that he shot the tire of the vehicle and hit one of the men with the shotgun.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Thompson** may be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$250,000. 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.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Mt. Grove, 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