



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS AVA, MO., MAN FOR OBSTRUCTING THE IRS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that an Ava, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury for obstructing the Internal Revenue Service in the collection of federal taxes owed to the government and for structuring currency transactions.

Roy Eugene Waters, 63, of Ava, Mo., was found guilty on Nov. 5, 2003, of all nine counts of a federal indictment returned on Aug. 27, 2002. The court ordered that **Waters** be taken into custody following the verdict.

Count One of the federal indictment charges that **Waters** corruptly and by threats of force, obstructed and impeded the due administration of the internal revenue laws of the United States, including the determination, assessment and collection of **Waters'** federal income tax liabilities for 1991, 1992 and 1993.

“**Waters** took numerous actions in a campaign to obstruct and prevent Internal Revenue Service employees from administering the federal tax law,” Graves said.

Beginning in 1995, **Waters**, who did business as Ava Greenhouses, conducted significant greenhouse business with cash and cashier's checks.

Waters threatened to defend his property with guns against seizure by the Internal Revenue Service, Graves added, and threatened to commit suicide. In an effort to intimidate and interfere with the IRS collection process, **Waters** also filed a series of frivolous lawsuits against the Internal Revenue Service. He placed notices in local newspapers threatening to sue anyone who bid on property seized by the IRS, claiming that intruders may be prosecuted, or the sale was unlawful.

Waters also filed for bankruptcy, Graves said, and listed his daughter as a secured creditor in an attempt to protect his assets from being turned over to the Internal Revenue Service for back taxes. “In reality,” Graves said, “she never loaned her father any money.”

Counts Two through Nine of the federal indictment charge **Waters** with structuring a series of currency transactions at several local financial institutions for the purpose of evading the federal reporting requirement. Graves explained that federal law requires financial institutions to report any currency transactions in excess of \$10,000. The federal indictment lists 35 financial transactions from June 23, 1998 through October 11, 2000 that were made by **Waters** for the purpose of evading the federal reporting requirement while committing the offense charged in Count One of the indictment.

Waters’ 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 Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal 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