



*U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of the United States Attorney  
Middle District of Tennessee*

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**COLLINWOOD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARM VIOLATION,  
CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE AFTER JURORS ARE  
READY FOR TRIAL**

*NASHVILLE, TN -- December 7, 2005* - Jeffrey Dial, 33, of Collinwood, Tennessee, faces substantial jail time in federal prison after his plea of guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and for possession of a firearm during that conspiracy. The plea was entered after the jury was empaneled in the United States District Court on December 7, 2005, announced United States Attorney James K. Vines, Special Agent in Charge James M. Cavanaugh of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Nashville Field Division, Assistant Special Agent in Charge Harry Sommers of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Assistant Special Agent in Charge T.J. Jordan of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Chief Rick Wilson of the Waynesboro Police Department (WPD) and District Attorney Mike Bottoms who oversees the 22nd Judicial District Drug Task Force (22nd JDDTF).

Dial was convicted of violating Title 21 of the U.S. Code, Section 846- conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 924(c)-possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. The penalty for his crimes are a minimum mandatory of 10 years in federal prison on the conspiracy plus an addition five years to life for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, up to a \$2 million dollar fine and a period of supervised release after serving his prison term. There is no parole in the federal prison system.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Echols for the Middle Judicial District of Tennessee presided at Dial's guilty plea on December 7, 2005.

According to the statement of facts at the plea colloquy, undercover law enforcement operations resulted in the successful purchase of methamphetamine on several occasions from Dial in early 2004. After several undercover purchases were made, a state search was served at Dial's residence and a camper at 5624 Double Branches Road in Collinwood, Tennessee.

Several firearms including an unregistered short barrel shotgun, methamphetamine, drug scales, plastic bags and other drug paraphernalia were recovered as evidence.

The case further developed on April 20, 2005 when a federal arrest warrant and federal search warrant were executed at Dial's residence. The warrants were executed with assistance from several local, state and federal agencies, including members of the ATF Special Response Team (SRT). As a result of the joint operation, Dial was taken into custody without incident. Additionally, methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, seven firearms, ammunition, \$4,000 in cash and several vehicles were recovered as evidence.

U.S. Attorney Jim Vines praised the efforts of the numerous agents involved in this case, saying "Cooperation on the federal and state level by law enforcement in Tennessee is at an all-time high."

ATF SAC Jim Cavanaugh said, "The law enforcement effort in this case shows a serious commitment to the continued war on crime and drugs by local, state and federal law enforcement. Wayne County residents will be pleased to know that Dial's face will not be seen in that community for a long time. Eventually, our efforts will lead us to Dial's crime partners and area drug addicts as other investigations are developed."

The case is the result of investigative efforts of the ATF, DEA, TBI, WPD and the 22<sup>nd</sup> JDDTF. The sentencing date is not yet set. Assistant United States Attorney Hal McDonough is prosecuting the case for the government.

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