



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 10, 2008
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BAY MINETTE MAN SENTENCED FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY

MOBILE, Ala. - Gary Lee Akins, 48, of Bay Minette, was sentenced this morning to a prison term of 42-months for his participation in a methamphetamine distribution conspiracy operating in the Bay Minette area. Judge William H. Steele found that Akins was not accountable in the computation of the advisory guideline sentencing scheme for a co-defendant's possession of a firearm, which occurred after Akins was arrested. Judge Steele also found that Akins was eligible for the guideline provision called the "safety valve," which allowed for the imposition of a sentence under the statutory minimum of 10 years applicable to the charge to which Akins pled guilty. The sentence also reflected Akins' agreement to cooperate with the authorities.

Akins made a tearful apology to the Court and his family, and admitted that he had done wrong. The judge observed that methamphetamine was a most destructive drug in terms of its impact on the community and the lives of those who come before the Court for sentencing. In pronouncing the sentence, the judge added that Akins would be required to undergo a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program in prison, and that he would be subject to drug and alcohol testing and treatment during a five-year term of supervised release to follow his imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration's HIDTA Task Force and the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by AUSA Gloria Bedwell.