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Poland Man Sentenced on Federal Firearm Charges

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that a federal judge sitting in Portland today sentenced **Paul Parker, Jr.**, 48, of Poland, Maine, to 71 months in prison for possession of a firearm while subject to a protection order and after being convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.

Court records show that, during the incident leading up to his August 28, 2007 arrest, Parker stalked his estranged wife from the woods outside her Poland, Maine home. He then broke into the home on the 28th, stole a firearm and used it to shoot and kill a family dog. The next day, Parker was found passed out drunk behind the residence in possession of the firearm and over 400 rounds of ammunition.

Records from the Maine District Court in Lewiston, Maine show that a protection order was issued against Parker on behalf of his estranged wife in June 2007 which prohibited Parker from possessing firearms under federal law. Records from the same court also reveal that Parker was convicted of the misdemeanor crime of domestic violence of Assault on August 9, 2007 for an incident involving his son which also prohibited his firearm possession under federal law.

On February 6, 2008, Parker pleaded guilty to the federal charges of possession of a firearm while subject to a protection order and possession of a firearm after being convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. Judge D. Brock Hornby today imposed the sentence of 71 months in federal prison. In doing so, Judge Hornby granted the Government's motion for

an upward departure from the guideline range provided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines by 25 months. Parker still faces charges arising out of the incident in Maine state court where he will be sentenced later today.

United States Attorney Silsby said that the investigation was conducted by the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department, the Central Maine Violent Crime Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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