



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER BUSINESS OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX FRAUD, STEALING CABLE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former business owner in Rocky Mount, Mo., pleaded guilty today to tax fraud and assisting in the illegal interception of cable systems services.

James Grant Collins, 38, formerly of Morgan County, Mo, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to a two-count federal information charging him with both crimes.

By pleading guilty to Count One of the information, **Collins**, former owner of ETS Electronics, admitted that he failed to include \$141,244 in income on his 1997 federal income tax return. This additional income, as well as his reported income of \$144,493, was from the sale of cable equipment intended to obtain unauthorized reception of cable systems services. **Collins** also admitted he failed to include similar income on his 1996 and 1998 federal tax returns in the amounts of \$15,290 and \$125,085, respectively.

By pleading guilty to Count Two of the information, **Collins** admitted that from January 1996 to April 2000 he knowingly distributed approximately \$5.9 million of equipment for the unauthorized reception of cable systems services. **Collins** distributed the equipment to individuals and businesses, accepting orders via telephone. **Collins** used Federal Express, cash-on-delivery, to send the equipment to his customers.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Larry Miller. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Missouri State Water Patrol and Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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