



# Department of Justice

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## **SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AS AN ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL**

DAYTON – Edwin Arthur Avery, age 26, of Springfield, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 15 years imprisonment for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Avery’s extensive criminal history was used to designate him as an armed career criminal.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Clark County Prosecuting Attorney Stephen Schumaker, and Springfield Police Chief Stephen P. Moody announced the sentence handed down today by United States District Judge Thomas M. Rose.

Avery pleaded guilty on June 6, 2008 to one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Springfield Police officers arrested Avery on November 17, 2007 in response to a call that he had fired a pistol on a street corner and thrown the weapon behind a tree. Because Avery had three or more prior violent felony convictions in any court, he was prosecuted and sentenced under the federal Armed Career Criminal law which imposes a minimum 15 year prison term in such circumstances.

“Protecting communities from habitual violent offenders is possible through coordinated efforts between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies,” Lockhart said. “Through a national effort known as Project Safe Neighborhoods, we work to combat gun crimes on our streets.”

Individuals convicted of a felony in either state or federal court are prohibited from owning or possessing firearms. The law applies to possessing bullets as well. For more information on Project Safe Neighborhoods, visit [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov).

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by Springfield Police officers and ATF agents, along with the cooperative prosecution of the case by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Hunt, and Assistant Clark County Prosecutor Christopher Kinsler, who has been appointed a Special Assistant United States Attorney in this case.

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