



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE

### **WOMAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City woman was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law. This case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

**Verna I. Evilsizer**, 44, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 19, 2002, **Evilsizer** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Evilsizer** admitted that on June 13, 2002, she was found in possession of a Harrington and Richardson 16 gauge shotgun. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Evilsizer** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm and a 1989 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

### Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 415 defendants, and convictions against 345 of those defendants, including 322 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 299 of the 345 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 46 currently await sentencing hearings.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)