



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN LARGE-SCALE METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. The conspiracy, Graves added, involved the largest meth lab ever found in southwest Missouri, operated from a home in a residential neighborhood in Springfield.

**David F. Williams**, 31, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to life in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Williams** to pay \$11,452 in restitution for costs associated with the disposal of hazardous waste from the site.

“A life sentence is appropriate in this case,” Graves said. “Not only did the defendant promote a large-scale conspiracy to manufacture and distribute multiple kilograms of meth, he turned his entire house into one huge meth lab, endangering everyone in the neighborhood. The fact that he had several firearms, despite being a convicted felon, underscores the threat he posed to the community.”

On Sept. 15, 2004, **Williams** was convicted by a federal jury of all counts of a Jan. 26, 2004, federal indictment. Those charges related to a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine from November 2003 to Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County, Mo.

**Williams** was arrested on Jan. 7, 2004, when law enforcement officers discovered a large-scale methamphetamine manufacturing laboratory in his home at 1221 S. Crutcher in Springfield. Agents located a large quantity of methamphetamine in the house, as well as 39 boxes containing pseudoephedrine tablets, 25 plastic zip-lock bags containing pseudoephedrine tablets and five bags of crushed pseudoephedrine powder. Agents also found several firearms and items used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, such as anhydrous ammonia tanks.

On Dec. 3, 2004, co-defendant **Sean L. Simaytis**, 37, of Springfield, was sentenced to seven years in federal prison without parole for his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

**Simaytis** admitted that he conspired to distribute between 1.5 kilograms and 5 kilograms of methamphetamine in southwest Missouri. **Simaytis** would trade processed methamphetamine that he received from **Williams** for precursors, such as pseudoephedrine and red phosphorus, Graves explained. **Simaytis** would then bring the chemicals and ingredients back to **Williams** to be used to manufacture more methamphetamine. **Simaytis** also agreed to forfeit \$14,166, which was proceeds from the sale of methamphetamine, that law enforcement officers seized from his home on Dec. 16, 2003.

In addition to the conspiracy count, **Williams** was also found guilty of several charges related to the operation of the meth lab at his home on Jan. 7, 2004:

- \* attempting to manufacture methamphetamine;
- \* being in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine;
- \* being in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine;
- \* maintaining a residence at 1221 S. Crutcher in Springfield for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine;
- \* creating a substantial risk of harm to human life while manufacturing methamphetamine in the residence located at 1221 S. Crutcher.

The federal jury also convicted **Williams** of being a felon in possession of eight firearms – including a Tanfoglio Giuseppe .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun and ammunition, a Beretta .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun, a Harrington and Richardson .22-caliber revolver, a Lorcin .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun and ammunition, a Smith and Wesson .357 magnum revolver and ammunition, a Century Arms International .308-caliber rifle and ammunition, a Remington 12-gauge shotgun, and a Savage Arms 12-gauge shotgun – on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Williams** has two 1991 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Greene County and two 1993 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Greene County and Lawrence County, Mo.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robyn McKee and David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

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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

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