

# NEWS

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## **FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT**

**NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA** - Jim Letten, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana, and Mark Chait, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced today that **DWAYNE WILLIS** pled guilty to possession of a firearm after being previously convicted of a felony. Sentencing will be before Martin L.C. Feldman, U. S. District Court Judge, on May 11, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.

On February 25, 2004, **WILLIS** possessed and pawned a Marlin, model 60SB, 22-caliber rifle for \$50.00 at a pawnshop in Marrero, Louisiana. Prior to his pawnshop transaction, **WILLIS** had pled guilty to possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute on February 7,

2000, in the Twenty-Fourth Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson; **WILLIS** was sentenced to five years, suspended, three years active probation. **WILLIS** was placed on active probation from February 7, 2000, through February 7, 2003. **WILLIS'S** right to receive or possess a firearm in the State of Louisiana will not be restored until February 7, 2013.

U. S. Attorney Letten stated that federal prosecution of convicted felons who illegally possess firearms is an important component of Project Safe Neighborhoods.

This investigation was handled by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the prosecuted is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Jean Bing Simpson.

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