



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STOVER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Stover, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine.

Michael Ellis Smith, 45, of Stover, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this afternoon to a charge contained in an April 9, 2004, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Smith** admitted that he conspired to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on Aug. 13, 2003.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Smith** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Morgan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Stover, Mo., Police Department and the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office.

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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