



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DRUG USER, CONVICTED FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a West Plains, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally possessing a firearm and marijuana.

**Darrell Keith Simpson**, 37, of West Plains, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to charges contained in a Nov. 17, 2004, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Simpson** admitted that he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance and a convicted felon in possession of a loaded H&R .22-caliber revolver on March 24, 2004, in Howell County, Mo. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal to be a felon or an unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. **Simpson** has two 2004 criminal felony convictions for forgery and possession of a controlled substance and a 1998 criminal felony conviction for stealing. **Simpson** also pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana and admitted that he was an unlawful user of marijuana when he possessed the firearm, Graves said.

Under federal statutes, Graves said, **Simpson** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 11 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$251,000.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Mountain View, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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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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