



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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## STOLEN IDENTITY DIDN'T GET DEFENDANT A RIFLE, BUT IT WILL COST HIM 10 YEARS IN PRISON

KANSAS CITY, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **James D. Brigman**, 34, currently incarcerated at the Leavenworth Detention Center, was sentenced Nov. 8, 2004 by U.S. District Judge John W. Lungstrum.

Brigman received a sentence of **120 months in federal prison** after a jury found him guilty of using false identification to attempt to buy a rifle and ammunition. The 10-year sentence is consecutive to a 41-month sentence Brigman already is serving after pleading guilty in Johnson County District Court to two counts of identity theft and one count of theft.

In June, a jury found Brigman guilty of making false statements when he attempted to buy a DPMS .223 rifle and 500 rounds of ammunition from The Bullet Hole gun store in Johnson County, Kan. on Dec. 10, 2002. Evidence presented at trial showed that he tried to pay for the firearm with a forged check in the name of Michael Roos. The check was rejected by Tele-Check and Brigman did not get the rifle.

On Nov. 20, 2002 Roos' wife had reported to the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department that her car had been burglarized and the thief had taken her purse with her health insurance card and documents with her husband's personal identifiers, including his social security number. When Brigman tried to buy the gun at the Bullet Hole on Dec. 10, 2002 he presented a Kansas driver's license with his own photo and Roos' name. Investigators later learned that Brigman had used personal information on Roos to obtain a driver's license in Missouri.

Investigators found several checks, including the one rejected at the Bullet Hole, in a vehicle that was involved in an escape from the scene of a shooting. Several of the checks were found to have Brigman's fingerprints on them.

Melgren commended the work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

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Explosives, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Johnson County District Attorney's Office, all of which were involved in the investigation, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead, who prosecuted the case.