

# NEWS RELEASE

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*For Immediate Release*

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## **EAST ST. LOUIS MAN SENTENCED FOR WEAPONS OFFENSE**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 29, 2006, **MARK A. SAMUELS**, age 43, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis for aiding and abetting the possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon. A jury convicted **SAMUELS** of the offense on January 9, 2006. **SAMUELS** received 78 months of imprisonment, three (3) years of supervised release, fined \$1250, and ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

The violation occurred on October 13, 2004, when **SAMUELS**, his co-defendant and brother Terry Samuels abducted and beat the victim, their cousin, in an incident that began in Cahokia, Illinois, and ended in Belleville, Illinois. The evidence at trial established that **SAMUELS** sought the victim out, as well as recruited his co-defendant Terry Samuels in an effort to find the victim. Additionally, in preparation for this attack, **SAMUELS** made a gun available to his co-defendant Terry Samuels, a previously convicted felon, which both Terry and **MARK SAMUELS** used, among other weapons, to beat the victim that night. Over a three-hour period, the victim was battered and threatened while being transported to three different areas. At the last location in Belleville, Illinois, another relative became aware of what was happening to the victim and called 911. Because of the call, the police were able to stop the vehicle before the victim was further injured. The victim suffered extensive injuries and was hospitalized thereafter. **SAMUELS** was

ordered to pay the victim \$5,264.45 in restitution to cover the victim's medical and other expenses.

**SAMUELS'** co-defendant was previously sentenced.

The investigation was conducted by the Belleville Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, in cooperation with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office, as part of those agencies' participation in Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide initiative intended to combat gun and drug crimes. The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Angela Scott and Andrew Simonson.