



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIX DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH MANUFACTURING METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that six northern Missouri residents have been charged in federal court with conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine.

Jerry E. Hilderman, 38, **Karanda Embry**, 21, and **Cherie L. Johns**, 46, all of Novinger, Mo.; **Edward W. Robbins**, 51, and **Martin L. Robbins**, 27, both of Queen City, Mo.; and **David L. Mullin**, 21, of Kirksville, Mo.; were each charged with conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine, according to the criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Kansas City on September 17, 2002.

An affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint alleges that the defendants were frequently involved in the manufacture of methamphetamine, as well as in acquiring the precursor materials used to manufacture methamphetamine, over the course of the past year or more.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and is not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the North Missouri Drug Task Force, which includes the Adair County Sheriff's Department and canine unit, the Putnam County Sheriff's Department and canine unit, the Schulyer County Sheriff's Department, the Kirksville, Mo., Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol; with assistance from the Knox County Sheriff's Department canine unit.

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 www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow