



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **THREE CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN COLUMBIA, SPRINGFIELD METH CONSPIRACY**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three co-defendants were sentenced in federal court today on methamphetamine related charges.

**William Arthur O’Cull**, 43, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 11 years and eight months in federal prison without parole.

On April 13, 2004, **O’Cull** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between March 15, 2001, and Feb. 19, 2003. **O’Cull** also pleaded guilty to possession of pseudoephedrine on July 22, 2002, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Keith Major Shearin**, 34, who currently lives in Springfield and previously lived in Columbia, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 13, 2004, **Shearin** pleaded guilty to five counts relating to the conspiracy, including conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Shearin** admitted that he was involved in the unlawful manufacturing of methamphetamine and a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine beginning as early as March 15, 2001, and continuing until about Feb. 19, 2003. **Shearin** also admitted that he possessed pseudoephedrine knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine on July 17, 2002, and Dec. 20, 2002, in Boone County, Mo. **Shearin** also admitted that he manufactured methamphetamine on the specific dates of Oct. 9, 2002, and Feb. 19, 2003, in Greene County, Mo.

**Jason Alan Carr**, 29, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to five years in federal prison without parole.

On April 13, 2004, **Carr** pleaded guilty to being in possession of pseudoephedrine on July 22, 2002, knowing it would be used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Two other co-defendants also have pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy.

On April 13, 2004, **Christina Marie O’Cull**, 25, pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between March 15, 2001, and Feb. 19, 2003.

On Aug. 27, 2004, **Joy Denise Shearin**, 34, of Springfield, pleaded to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, she, too, admitted that she conspired with others to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between March 15, 2001, and Feb. 19, 2003.

The **O’Culls** admitted that their involvement in the conspiracy was primarily to obtain pseudoephedrine and other items that would be used by others to manufacture methamphetamine. On more than 100 occasions, Graves said, **William O’Cull’s** brother, **Keith Shearin** paid them to buy pseudoephedrine, batteries, camping fuel and other supplies. The **O’Culls** were paid either in cash or with methamphetamine.

**William O’Cull** admitted that they frequently traveled to Columbia at **Keith Shearin’s** request, where they purchased numerous boxes of pseudoephedrine pills over a two to three day period. **William O’Cull** also admitted that **Keith Shearin** normally recruited other individuals to purchase pseudoephedrine pills, and that it was not uncommon for **Keith Shearin** to drive five people around at once to buy pseudoephedrine pills at different locations in Columbia and Springfield. **William O’Cull** estimated that **Keith Shearin** had 15 to 20 people working for him to buy pseudoephedrine pills and other supplies.

**Carr** and the **O’Culls** were confronted by law enforcement officers on July 22, 2002, after purchasing pseudoephedrine and lithium batteries at a Target store in Springfield. Law enforcement officers searched **Carr’s** vehicle and residence, where they found pseudoephedrine and other items used to manufacture methamphetamine.

**Keith Shearin** was initially arrested following a search of his residence by law enforcement officers on July 17, 2002. During the first search, officers discovered various materials and devices used to manufacture methamphetamine, including 54.11 grams of actual pseudoephedrine, lithium batteries, salt, scales and assorted glassware, among other items.

**Keith Shearin** was later arrested again at an active methamphetamine laboratory, located in a field, on Feb. 19, 2003. Law enforcement officers had searched his residence again on Aug. 22, 2002, and Sept. 16, 2002, his vehicle on Oct. 1, 2002, and a hotel room he occupied on Oct. 10, 2002. All of the searches resulted in the discovery of additional materials and devices used in the manufacture and use of methamphetamine. During the searches, officers also discovered a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun in a safe in the defendant’s house.

**Joy Shearin** admitted that she purchased or acquired pseudoephedrine that would be used by co-conspirators to manufacture methamphetamine. **Joy Shearin** obtained the drugs by ordering them at a dentist office where she worked as a dental assistant, Graves said. **Joy Shearin** also purchased pseudoephedrine from an area retailer in Columbia, Mo.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Clinton, Mo., Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, MUSTANG, the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team And Narcotics Group, and COMET, the Combined Ozarks Multi-Jurisdictional Enforcement Team.

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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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