



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JURY CONVICTS SPRINGFIELD MAN IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was convicted by a federal jury today for his role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine. Williams operated one of the largest meth labs ever found in southwest Missouri from his home in a residential neighborhood in Springfield.

**David F. Williams**, 30, of Springfield, was found guilty on all counts of a Jan. 26, 2004, federal indictment at the conclusion of a trial that began Sept. 13, 2004.

Following the presentation of evidence, jurors deliberated about two hours before returning a guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon.

**Williams** was arrested on Jan. 7, 2004, when law enforcement officers discovered a large-scale methamphetamine manufacturing laboratory in his home at 1221 S. Crutcher in Springfield. Agents located a large quantity of methamphetamine in the house, as well as 39 boxes containing pseudoephedrine tablets, 25 plastic zip-lock bags containing pseudoephedrine tablets and five bags of crushed pseudoephedrine powder. Agents also found several firearms and items used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, such as anhydrous ammonia tanks.

“This was one of the largest meth labs ever found in southwest Missouri,” Graves said. “The entire house was essentially being used as a lab. This is not only significant because of the large size of the meth lab, but because it was located within a residential area. A meth lab in a neighborhood creates serious health and safety hazards for children and all the nearby residents.”

On Aug. 12, 2004, co-defendant **Sean L. Simaytis**, 36, of Springfield, pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy with **Williams** to manufacture and distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine.

**Simaytis** admitted that he conspired to distribute between 1.5 kilograms and 5 kilograms of methamphetamine in southwest Missouri. **Simaytis** would trade processed methamphetamine that he received from **Williams** for precursors, such as pseudoephedrine and red phosphorus, Graves explained. **Simaytis** would then bring the chemicals and ingredients back to **Williams** to be used to manufacture more methamphetamine.

**Simaytis** also agreed to forfeit \$14,166, which he admitted was proceeds from the sale of methamphetamine, that law enforcement officers seized from his home on Dec. 16, 2003.

Count One of the federal indictment charged **Williams** and **Simaytis** with participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine from November 2003 to Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County, Mo.

In addition to the conspiracy count, **Williams** was also indicted on several charges related to the operation of the meth lab at his home on Jan. 7, 2004:

- \* attempting to manufacture methamphetamine
- \* being in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine
- \* being in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine
- \* maintaining a residence at 1221 S. Crutcher in Springfield for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine
- \* creating a substantial risk of harm to human life while manufacturing methamphetamine in the residence located at 1221 S. Crutcher

The federal indictment also charged **Williams** with being a felon in possession of eight firearms – including a Tanfoglio Giuseppe .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun and ammunition, a Beretta .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun, a Harrington and Richardson .22-caliber revolver, a Lorcin .380-caliber semi-automatic handgun and ammunition, a Smith and Wesson .357 magnum revolver and ammunition, a Century Arms International .308-caliber rifle and ammunition, a Remington 12-gauge shotgun, and a Savage Arms 12-gauge shotgun – on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Williams** has two 1991 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Greene County and two 1993 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Greene County and Lawrence County, Mo.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robyn McKee and David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)