



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSION MAN INDICTED FOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION

(Tyler, Texas) A 27 year-old Mission man has been indicted for possessing and intending to distribute over 100 kilograms of marijuana. A federal grand jury in Tyler returned the two count indictment against **VALENTIN DELEON, JR** on Tuesday.

According to court documents, **DELEON** was driving a U-Haul truck on February 19, 2004 in Panola County when he was stopped by an officer with the Northeast Texas Narcotics Task Force for a traffic violation. **DELEON** gave the Task Force officer consent to search and during that search, several U-Haul boxes were found to contain numerous bundles of marijuana weighing about 658 lbs.

If convicted, **DELEON** could be sentenced to a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 40 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge, and should not be considered as evidence of either innocence or guilt.

The Northeast Texas Narcotics Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration are investigating this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen Hurst is prosecuting the case.

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