

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

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Contact Person

Elizabeth Altman
Assistant U.S. Attorney

EAGLE RIVER MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR SELLING COCAINE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Ron Sellers, 42, Eagle River, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb to 168 months in prison without parole for selling cocaine. Sellers pleaded guilty to this charge on December 18, 2008.

Sellers and his partner, Kurt Schels, made numerous trips to Florida where they purchased cocaine for distribution. They kept a gun in the trunk for protection when they were transporting the drugs. Some of the cocaine Sellers and Schels obtained was brought back to the Eagle River area where it was sold.

On August 25, 2008, Schels sold more than 550 grams of cocaine to an undercover officer. On September 15, 2008, Sellers and Schels were arrested on their way back from Florida with almost 560 grams of cocaine in their vehicle.

Schels was sentenced to 96 months in prison by Judge Crabb on March 31.

The charges against Sellers and Schels were the result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal investigation;

Vilas County Sheriff's Department; Oneida County Sheriff's Department; Oconto County Sheriff's Department; Marinette County Sheriff's Department; Wisconsin State Patrol; Norway (Michigan) Police Department; and Dickinson County (Michigan) Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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