

United States Attorney

District of Minnesota

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

Minneapolis -A federal jury in Minneapolis today convicted Donald A. Blom for possession of firearms by a convicted felon.

Following four days of trial before Judge John Tunheim in Minneapolis, the jury deliberated about 30 minutes before finding Blom guilty of possessing several firearms that were discovered in his Carlton County cabin during the execution of a search warrant in June 1999.

Blom has a prior conviction in Washington County in 1984 for criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping, and convictions in Dakota County in 1982 for criminal. sexual conduct, 1978 for aggravated assault and 1976 for kidnapping and criminal sexual conduct. Federal law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony from possessing a firearm.

As a result of his three prior violent felony convictions, Blom faces sentencing as an Armed Career Criminal which calls for a mandatory minimum of 15 years and up to life in prison. The actual sentence will be determined by Judge Tunheim based on the federal sentencing guidelines. Sentencing has been scheduled for January 11, 2000 at 9:30 am.

The case is the result of an investigation by the Carlton County Sheriff s Department, the Moose Lake Police Department, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney R. J. Zayed prosecuted the case.

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