



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky**

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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

CHICAGO MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO GUN CONSPIRACY CHARGES

- Gangster Disciples gang receive gun

Charles Thornton, a/k/a "Shorty" a/k/a "Lil Charles," age 36, of 142 N. Latrove Street, Chicago, Illinois, and Elder Dantzler, a/k/a Jesse Dantzler, 31 years of age, of 1921 10th Avenue, Maywood, Illinois, plead guilty on June 11, 2007, to one count of conspiring to violate federal firearms laws, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Thornton and Dantzler admitted that in 2000 they engaged in a conspiracy in which individuals in Kentucky were paid to provide false information to federally-licensed firearms dealers to obtain firearms, which were then transferred to others in violation of federal law. These individuals ultimately purchased seven guns, one of which was recovered in the hands of a self-identified member of the Gangster Disciples, a street gang in Chicago, Illinois, following the controlled purchase of narcotics in that city. During the course of the conspiracy, several of Thornton and Dantzler's co-conspirators removed the serial numbers from four of the handguns they obtained.

The maximum potential penalties are 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of three years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ann Claire Phillips and David R. Weiser. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Chicago Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

The plea was entered before John G. Heyburn, II, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

Judge Heyburn has ordered a presentence investigation. Sentencing should be scheduled in approximately five to ten weeks.

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