

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
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NAYLOR MAN SENTENCED TO 120 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

July 30, 2007

A Naylor, Missouri man was sentenced today on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

JAMES D. WILLCUT, age 31, was sentenced to 120 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

At his plea, Willcut admitted that on January 28, 2007, he obtained a Ruger, .22 caliber rifle from a storage compartment near his home in Ripley County, Missouri. The rifle had been placed in that storage compartment by his wife earlier on the previous day. Willcut took the firearm from his home, placed it in his vehicle, drove to his father's house in Naylor, Missouri and then placed it in

the back of his father's vehicle. The rifle was later recovered and turned over to special agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Due to Willcut's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited by law from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Ripley County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.