



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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## **HENDERSON (Ky.) WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO METHAMPHETAMINE CHARGES**

OWENSBORO, KY - Sara M. Meuth, age 42, of Henderson, Kentucky, pled guilty to drug trafficking and possessing and manufacturing methamphetamine, 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.

Meuth admitted that on December 1, 2006, she possessed with the intent to distribute methamphetamine. Meuth further admitted that on April 3, 2007, she possessed methamphetamine; that she attempted to manufacture methamphetamine and possessed pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine; and that she possessed equipment, chemicals, and materials in order to manufacture methamphetamine.

On December 1, 2005, a Kentucky State Police ("KSP") informant purchased approximately one gram of methamphetamine from Sara Meuth at her residence in Henderson, Kentucky. On April 3, 2006, KSP detectives conducted a "trash pull" in front of her residence and discovered methamphetamine "burn boats" and small plastic "baggies" with white residue that tested positive for methamphetamine. Later that afternoon, at approximately 4:30, law enforcement executed a state search warrant at Meuth's residence. Officers were overcome with a heavy chemical smell. A KSP detective noticed two large containers with greenish blue liquid

and some white material floating on the top of that liquid with more material on the bottom of each jar. Meuth made a voluntary statement that these containers in her bathroom contained a combination of Coleman fuel, pseudoephedrine and anhydrous ammonia. Officers evacuated the premises.

Next, officers gained entry into an out-building behind Meuth's residence. There, officers/agents noticed chemical smells emanating from a freezer in this out-building. A dragger test was conducted on the chemicals in the freezer and it indicated positive for ammonia. Officers recovered approximately 143 HCL gas generators, approximately 125 pealed lithium batteries, thousands of used coffee filters, thousands of methamphetamine "burn boats", thousands of corner plastic baggies, 19 empty cans of Coleman fuel, two gallons of industrial grade acid, 49 cans of starter fluid with holes punched in the sides, and 48 pounds of pseudoephedrine together with two 10-pound hydroxide containers, two 18-ounce containers of Red Devil lye, six containers of Liquid Fire and numerous empty blister packs.

On further search of Meuth's residence, agents found numerous items of drug paraphernalia along with glass methamphetamine pipes and a quantity of suspected methamphetamine, digital scales and surveillance equipment along with a letter addressed to Meuth including a detailed recipe of how to manufacture methamphetamine.

The maximum potential penalties are not more than 40 years imprisonment, a \$2,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of not less than 5 years; and the minimum potential penalties are not less than 5 years imprisonment.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Kilmartin. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation in partnership with the Kentucky State Police as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

The plea was entered before Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Meuth is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge McKinley on January 17, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., in Owensboro, Kentucky.

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