

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
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ARKANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

October 23, 2007

An Arkansas man pled guilty today to unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

MICHAEL A. CINELLI, age 34, of Rector, Arkansas, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

On August 15, 2007, Michael A. Cinelli was the driver of a vehicle stopped in Kennett, Missouri, for a traffic violation. During that stop, the police officer who conducted that stop asked Mr. Cinelli for permission to search his vehicle. Mr. Cinelli consented to the search. The officer found a Remington, 12 gauge shotgun in the vehicle. Mr. Cinelli was interviewed about

the shotgun. He stated that he had borrowed the shotgun from his landlord and had not yet returned it to him.

Due to Mr. Cinelli's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms and now faces a maximum punishment of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for January 28, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Kennett, Missouri Police Department, the Dunklin County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, 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.