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Savannah Woman Sentenced to 18 Months in Prison for Receipt of Firearm while under Indictment

SAVANNAH: Edmund A. Booth, Jr., United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that **RAUSHANNAH MYERS BOWLES** was sentenced in U.S. District Court in Savannah by U.S. District Judge John F. Nangle to 18 months in federal prison and three years of supervised release. BOWLES, age 27, was convicted of receipt of a firearm by a person under indictment after her plea of guilty on November 9, 2007.

This prosecution resulted from an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, after the National Instant Criminal Background Check System ("NICS") transmitted a message to ATF indicating that a firearm may have been transferred to a prohibited individual. When a federally licensed firearms dealer conducts a NICS record check with a delayed result, the dealer may lawfully transfer the firearm after a three-day waiting period if no result has been received.

Booth noted that the evidence in this case showed that BOWLES completed the ATF Form 4473 required for the purchase of a Keltec, model P-32, .380 caliber semiautomatic pistol, claiming that she was not currently under indictment for a felony, when in fact she was under indictment for the felony offense of Welfare Fraud, having been indicted by a Grand Jury in Chatham County on August 24, 2005. The NICS system was unable to verify her status within three days, so she returned later and purchased the firearm. The firearm was later seized by ATF.

Booth also noted that there is no parole in the federal system. After serving the 18 month sentence, Bowles will face three years of supervised release.

The United States was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Cameron Heaps Ippolito.

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