



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky**

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**HOPKINSVILLE FELON SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS AND 2 MONTHS FOR  
POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

*- Castile has 4 prior felony convictions, including 2 drug convictions*

BOWLING GREEN, KY - James M. Castile, age 35, of 611 Millbrooke Road, Hopkinsville, KY, was sentenced today to 7 years and 2 months imprisonment by Judge Thomas B. Russell, United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, for being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for 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. Judge Russell also sentenced Castile to 3 years of supervised release following completion of the incarceration. There is no parole in the federal system.

U.S. Attorney Huber said that “good basic police work by the Kentucky State Police combined with federal prosecution can help keep our communities safer.”

On May 16, 2007, a Kentucky State Trooper responded to a call regarding a car which ran off of Kentucky Highway 181, just south of Elkton, Kentucky. When the trooper arrived at the scene, he came into contact with Castile. After Castile handed the trooper his drivers’ license, Castile took off running through a nearby field. The trooper gave chase. While pursuing Castile on foot, the trooper observed Castile throw what appeared to be a pistol onto the

ground. After apprehending Castile, the trooper recovered a loaded Llama, Model Max 1, .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol from the same area where Castile tossed it during the foot chase. ATF confirmed that Castile had three felony convictions in Kentucky and one in Tennessee. Castile's prior felony convictions include two for manufacturing methamphetamine, one for criminal mischief 1st degree, and one for possession of drug paraphernalia.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state, local and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michael A. Bennett. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) 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.

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