



Department of Justice

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THREE CONVICTED FELONS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION

Montgomery Felon Sentenced to 5 years for possessing a gun in connection with drug trafficking; Fort Deposit Man Receives 15 Months for Being a Habitual Drug User in Possession of a Firearm; and Randolph County Felon Sentenced to 10 Years for Illegal Firearm Possession

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - United States Attorney Leura G. Canary

announced the following sentences today: Anthony Keith Davidson, age 31, of Montgomery, Alabama, was sentenced in federal district court to a term of five years in prison for possessing a gun in connection with a drug trafficking offense. Davidson was also sentenced to serve five years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after his release from prison; David Harold Stokes, age 44, of Fort Deposit, Alabama, was sentenced in federal district court to 15 months in federal prison for being a habitual drug user in possession of a firearm; Benjamin Shane Foster, age 29, of Randolph County, Alabama, was sentenced in federal district court to ten years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of firearms. Both Stokes and Foster were also sentenced to serve three years of supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer after their release from prison.

Davidson pled guilty to possessing a 9 mm pistol on October 13, 2006, in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in this case possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute. Davidson was found with the gun and cocaine during a traffic stop

by Montgomery Police Department officers. Davidson is also a convicted felon, with prior convictions for possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana. Federal law prohibits possessing or using a firearm in connection with a drug trafficking offense. The court sentenced Davidson to serve 60 months in prison for possessing the gun. Davidson was previously convicted in state court for possessing the cocaine and the 60 month sentence in federal prison will be served consecutively to that sentence.

Stokes pled guilty to possessing a twelve gauge shotgun on June 30, 2007, in Butler County. Stokes admitted that at the time he possessed the shotgun, he was a habitual user or addict of illegal drugs. While he had the shotgun on June 30, 2007, Stokes accidentally shot one of his friends with the shotgun. Although the victim suffered only minor injuries, federal law prohibits habitual drug users or addicts from possessing firearms.

Foster pled guilty to two charges of possessing a firearm while a convicted felon. The charges are related to Foster's conduct on May 11, 2007. Foster first broke into a neighbor's home and stole a rifle and shotgun near Lineville, Alabama. Later that day, Foster was involved in a shooting in Wedowee, Alabama, in which he shot a man in the head with a shotgun. After fleeing the scene of the shooting, Foster was finally apprehended that evening in Clay County, Alabama, with the stolen shotgun. The other stolen gun, a rifle, was later recovered in Randolph County. The police never found the shotgun that was actually used in the shooting.

Foster has an extensive criminal history, including felony convictions for Receiving Stolen Property, Extortion, Theft of Property, and Perjury. Because he was a convicted felon, federal law prohibited Foster from possessing any firearms. Foster was

charged with possessing the rifle and shotgun that he had stolen. He was charged with possessing the rifle in the Middle District of Alabama, because that is where the rifle was recovered. He was then charged in the Northern District of Alabama with possessing the stolen shotgun, because it was recovered in Clay County, which is in the Northern District of Alabama. The case from the Northern District of Alabama was transferred to the Middle District of Alabama and consolidated for sentencing. The federal district court sentenced Foster to ten years in prison for each charge, to run concurrently.

Foster still faces pending state charges in the Circuit Court of Randolph County regarding the theft of the firearms and the shooting on May 11, 2007.

According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Convicted felons using guns to commit crimes against the citizens of the Middle District of Alabama will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The ICE program was created to ensure that criminals who illegally possess firearms and use those firearms in the commission of a crime spend a long time in federal prison."

These cases were investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE (Isolating the Criminal Element) programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms.

The Davison case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Montgomery Police Department, the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The Stokes case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Butler County

Sheriff's Office, the Fort Deposit Police Department, the Butler County District Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.

Both the Davison and Stokes cases were prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.

The Foster case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Randolph County Sheriff's Office, the Lineville Police Department, the Randolph County District Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case was prosecuted through the joint efforts of the United States Attorney Offices for the Middle and Northern Districts of Alabama. The case was prosecuted in the Middle District of Alabama by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd, and in the Northern District of Alabama by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scarlet Singleton.