



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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**BARREN COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
POSSESSION OF UNREGISTERED FIREARM BY CONVICTED FELON**

*- Defendant current under indictment for murder
- Also convicted in 2002*

BOWLING GREEN, KY - Lonnie Freeman, age 41, of 1410 Caney Fork Road, Glasgow, in Barren County, pled guilty to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and possession of an unregistered firearm, 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.

U.S. Attorney Huber noted that a close working relationship with the Barren County Commonwealth Attorney, the Barren County Sheriff's Office and the ATF will result in federal prison time for the defendant.

Freeman admitted that on March 28, 2006, he knowingly possessed a Stevens 16 gauge short barrel shotgun (with a barrel length of less than 18 inches) which was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and that he had previously been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year. Freeman has a previous felony conviction in 2002 in Barren County for wanton endangerment in the first degree, for which he received a suspended sentence of five years, probated for five years. He is currently under a 2006 indictment in Allen County for murder, accused along with a co-defendant, Dustin Asher, of killing two men in and burning their bodies. He is also under a 2006

indictment in Barren County for attempting to manufacture methamphetamine. In both cases, the initial trials ended with deadlocked juries and mistrials were declared. Freeman is awaiting retrials in both cases.

The combined maximum potential penalties for the federal firearms charges are 20 years imprisonment, a \$500,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of three years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry Fentress, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Kentucky State Police, and the Barren County Sheriff's Office.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a cooperative effort between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearms offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

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

Judge McKinley has ordered a presentence investigation. Sentencing should be scheduled in approximately eight to ten weeks.

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