



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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**LOUISVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR
BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

- Vincent Patrick Sherley used gun in holding wife hostage

LOUISVILLE, KY - Vincent Patrick Sherley, age 46, formerly of 1837 West Hill Street, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 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. Charles R. Simpson, III, Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Sherley to 3 years supervised release following incarceration. Sherley's sentence was enhanced under a federal law known as the Armed Career Criminal Act because Sherley had at least three previous convictions for violent felonies. These previous convictions stemmed from Sherley's 1990 convictions on fourteen counts of robbery in the first degree. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

The Facts

On April 30, 2008, a jury in federal district court found Sherley guilty of possessing a Intratec 9mm Lugar pistol. The testimony at trial established that on September 20, 2005 Sherley had held his wife at gunpoint in their home at 1837 West Hill Street during a standoff with police. Nearly 70 Louisville Metro Police Department personnel responded to the scene,

including the SWATT (Special Weapons And Tactical Team) unit and hostage negotiation unit. Sherley finally surrendered to police without any gunfire after nearly five hours. The gun was found hidden in the basement of the house. At trial, Sherley admitted to being a felon and admitted to possessing the gun, but he claimed he needed the gun for protection against drug dealers who were threatening his family. It is a violation of federal law for a convicted felon to possess a firearm. The gun has been forfeited to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John E. Kuhn, Jr. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Louisville Metro Police Department, as part of ATF's ongoing commitment to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

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