



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Nashville Field Division

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## **CELINA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING CHARGE** *Case Involves Knowledge of an Associate Who Jumped Bond*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Robert Barr, 40, of Celina, Tenn., has pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to providing false information to a federal officer. Providing false information to a federal agent or other federal officer is a violation of Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1001.

Barr could face up to five years in federal prison and up to a \$250,000 fine. There is no parole or probation in the federal prison system.

U.S. District Court Judge Todd Campbell for the Middle Judicial District of Tennessee presided at Barr's Feb. 18 plea, which was announced by U.S. Attorney James K. Vines, U.S. Marshal Denny King of the U.S. Marshals Service, Sheriff Jerry Rhoton of the Clay County Sheriff's Department and Special Agent in Charge James M. Cavanaugh of the ATF Nashville Field Division.

According to facts introduced at the change of plea hearing, Barr agreed on May 5, 2003, to serve as third-party custodian of William Hunter before U.S. Magistrate Judge Juliet Griffin in a criminal case. Barr was made fully aware of the conditions of being a third-party custodian and acknowledged his responsibilities in writing.

On April 1, 2004, a jury convicted Hunter for illegal possession of marijuana, firearms and moonshine. However, Hunter was allowed by the court to remain under the same bond conditions until his sentencing hearing.

On June 19, 2004 Hunter was granted "may leave" status by the U.S. Probation Office for the hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Under the leave status, Hunter was allowed to visit a sick relative at a local nursing home, go to the grocery and drug store and visit his wife. Hunter did not return home that day.

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On June 25, 2004, Barr admitted to ATF Special Agent John M. Welch that he lied to the U.S. Probation Office about when he learned of Hunter's disappearance. Barr told Agent Welch he spoke to Hunter at approximately noon, June 19, at 8058 Red Oak Ridge Road, the residence Hunter rented from Barr while on release. Hunter invited Barr to attend a cookout at his wife's residence in Judio, Ky.

Barr admitted he decided not to go to the cookout and took a nap instead. Later, Barr said, he woke up and went to Hunter's residence to check on him. A neighbor, Jake Proffitt, stopped Barr and said that Hunter's vehicle had been located on a corner in Celina, Tenn. Barr said he and Proffitt then entered Hunter's residence in an attempt to check on him. Hunter, Barr said, had taken everything from his residence, including power tools, pictures, clothes, and pots and pans. Barr discovered a hand written note left by Hunter before his departure.

"The court and community trusted Barr to be Hunter's custodian. He was ultimately responsible for reporting Hunter's flight. Now, both Barr and Hunter face possible imprisonment," said ATF Nashville spokesman Eric Kehn.

The successful resolution of the case is the result of investigative efforts of ATF, the U.S. Marshals Service and Clay County Sheriff's Department, with assistance from the U.S. Probation Office in Cookeville, Tenn.

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