

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
May 4, 2005**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**SHEPHERDSVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
FEDERAL GUN CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **WILLIAM E. NOBLE**, age 38, of 195 Highland Boulevard, Shepherdsville, Kentucky, in Bullitt County, **pled guilty** on May 3, 2005, to two counts of violating federal gun laws.

Noble faces maximum potential penalties of 20 years' imprisonment, a \$500,000.00 fine, and a 3-year term of supervised release.

During the guilty plea hearing held before United States District Judge Charles R. Simpson III, **Noble** admitted the following:

In October 2000, **Noble** had pled guilty in Jefferson District Court to a charge of harassment with physical contact. In a prior ruling, Judge Simpson had determined that the charge of harassment with physical contact qualifies as a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence under federal law.

On February 2, 2004, **Noble** completed an ATF Form 4473 in an effort to purchase a .44 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver from Deprez Quality Jewelry and Loan. **Noble** acquired the handgun from the dealer on February 6, 2004. The .44 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver had not been manufactured in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and, therefore, had traveled in interstate commerce prior to **Noble's** purchasing the firearm.

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ATF agents interviewed **Noble** on September 28, 2004, regarding his acquisition of the .44 caliber Smith & Wesson revolver. During the interview, **Noble** admitted purchasing the .44 caliber handgun, and acknowledged his signature on the ATF Form 4473. **Noble** agreed to allow one of the agents to go into his apartment with him for the purpose of retrieving the handgun. **Noble** retrieved the .44 caliber revolver from the top drawer of a chest and handed it to the agent.

The agent asked **Noble** whether he had any other firearms or ammunition. Although he initially denied possessing any other firearms or ammunition, **Noble** then admitted to having a sawed-off shotgun in the closet. **Noble** removed a bag from the top of a bedroom closet, and the agent retrieved a 12-gauge shotgun and rounds of ammunition from the bag. The Harrington and Richardson Topper Model 138 12-gauge shotgun's stock had been sawed off to form a pistol grip, and the barrel had been cut to a length of 12 ³/₄ inches. The shotgun's overall length totaled 19½ inches, and it was not registered to **Noble** in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record as required by federal law.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The plea was entered before United States District Judge Charles R. Simpson III, Louisville, Kentucky. **Noble** is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Simpson on August 1, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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