



**U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**June 28, 2005**

### **PARSONS, KANSAS MAN SENTENCED TO 140 MONTHS IN DRUG CONSPIRACY**

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that Franchester Griffin, 28, Parsons, Kansas, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to one hundred forty months in federal prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release and a money forfeiture of \$2,500.

Melgren said that Griffin entered a guilty plea on June 28, 2004 to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distributed 50 grams or more (1.76 ounces or more) of crack cocaine.

Melgren stated that Griffin admitted at his plea that from January 1999 until September 2003 he, along with several others, were engaged in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri. Griffin further admitted that he, along with others, would obtain larger quantities of cocaine and then manufacture crack cocaine or purchase large quantities of crack cocaine and sell it in smaller quantities. Griffin admitted that on two occasions he distributed crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school in Parsons, Kansas.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Coffeyville Police Department, the Winfield Police Department, the Joplin, Missouri Police Department, the Labette County Attorney's Office and the Cowley County Attorney's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.