

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

## **ST. LOUIS COUNTY MAN IS SENTENCED TO OVER 24 YEARS IN PRISON ON WEAPONS, WITNESS TAMPERING, AND ATTEMPTED ESCAPE CHARGES**

St. Louis, Missouri: A St. Louis County man has been sentenced to 24 ½ years in prison on weapons, witness tampering, and attempted escape from custody charges, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

“This defendant is a prolific violent criminal from which the public needs to be protected,” said U.S. Attorney Hanaway. “The length of this sentence will ensure that.”

DENNIS WAYNE HINKLE, SR. 57, formerly of the 6100 block of Bender Lane, St. Louis County was sentenced to 293 months in prison. There is no parole in the federal system. On June 16, 2005, Hinkle was convicted of two felony counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, one felony count of possession of a sawed-off shotgun, one felony count of tampering with a witness, and one count of attempted escape from custody. He appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Jean C. Hamilton.

According to testimony presented at trial, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department detectives were engaged in an unrelated investigation in January of 2003 when they discovered a sawed off shot gun, a .223 caliber Mini 14 rifle, and various types of ammunition in a trailer used by Hinkle. While the firearms case was pending, Hinkle mailed a letter to a witness and directed the witness conceal evidence from the police. As Hinkle was being held at the St. Genevieve County Jail and awaiting trial on the firearms charges, he attempted to escape by attempting to saw through the metal bars in the window of his jail cell and obtaining a map of the surrounding area.

Due to Hinkle’s extensive criminal history, which spans almost forty years, Judge Hamilton

sentenced him under the armed career criminal statute.

Hanaway went on to praise the work on the case by the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Assistant United States Attorneys Michael Reilly and Patrick Judge, who handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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