



Department of Justice

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PHENIX CITY FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO FIVE COUNTS OF VIOLATING FEDERAL FIREARMS LAWS

Montgomery, Alabama - Bradley Wayne Stokes, age 25, of Phenix City, Alabama, pled guilty to five counts of violating federal firearms laws before a United States Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court in Montgomery, Alabama, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today. Stokes pled guilty to three counts of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, to one count of knowingly possessing a firearm with an obliterated serial number, and to one count of knowingly possessing a stolen firearm.

Stokes pled guilty to possessing a Kel Tec, 9 mm pistol on April 29, 2008; an SKS, 7.62 mm rifle and ammunition on May 2, 2008; and an Ithaca, 12 gauge shotgun and ammunition on October 16, 2008, after having been convicted of a felony offense. Stokes was previously convicted in Alabama of Possession of Marijuana in the 1st Degree. Stokes also pled guilty to possessing the Kel Tec, 9 mm pistol knowing that it was stolen and that its serial number had been obliterated. All of Stokes' firearms possessions were in Russell County, Alabama. Federal law prohibits convicted felons from possessing firearms and prohibits anyone from knowingly possessing a stolen firearm or a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

Stokes will be sentenced by a United States District Court Judge on a date to be set later. At sentencing Stokes faces up to ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000.00 fine for each of the three counts of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and for the count of possessing

a stolen firearm. He also faces up to five years imprisonment and \$250,000.00 fine for possessing the firearm with an obliterated serial number. There is no parole from federal prison.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms. According to United States Attorney Leura G. Canary, "Bradley Stokes has pled guilty to multiple firearms charges and now faces the possibility of a substantial prison sentence. Prosecuting convicted felons who possess firearms remains a priority of this office."

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Phenix City Police Department, the Russell County District Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Shepherd.