



# Department of Justice

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**FLORIDA FELON SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING  
FIREARM IN COVINGTON COUNTY**

*Montgomery, Alabama* - Robert L. Toles, age 50, of Laurel Hill, Florida, was sentenced on September 17, 2009, in United States District Court in Montgomery to 57 months in federal prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today.

Toles previously pled guilty to possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony offense. On January 12, 2008, officers attempted to stop Toles for a traffic violation in Covington County, Alabama, near the Florida border. Toles refused to stop and led police on a short chase across the state line into Florida. During the pursuit, Toles possessed a .22 caliber rifle in his truck. When he stopped the vehicle, Toles ran from the truck carrying the rifle. The pursuing police officer quickly apprehended Toles with the rifle. Toles has prior felony convictions for Armed Robbery, False Imprisonment, and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Federal law prohibits anyone convicted of a felony offense from possessing a firearm. Toles was sentenced to serve 57 months in prison and will be on supervised release under the supervision of a federal probation officer for three years after he finishes his prison term. There is no parole from federal prison.

The case was investigated as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Middle District of Alabama's Alabama ICE (Isolating the Criminal

Element) programs, aimed at preventing violent crime and the illegal possession of firearms.

The case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Lockhart Police Department, the Covington County Sheriff's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"). The case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthew Shepherd.