



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Alabama

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## **TALLAPOOSA COUNTY MAN CONVICTED OF MANUFACTURING AND POSSESSING METHAMPHETAMINE AND FIREARMS VIOLATIONS**

*Montgomery, Alabama* - James Harold Griffith, 37, of Dadeville, Alabama, was convicted on October 21, 2009, of six counts related to the manufacture and possession of methamphetamine and firearms violations, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today.

The evidence introduced at trial showed that, on February 25, 2008, investigators with the Tallapoosa County Narcotics Task Force went to Griffith's residence in Dadeville, Alabama, to execute a warrant connected with his child support payments. When he was arrested, the investigators located, in one of his pockets, a container that was holding what the investigators suspected was methamphetamine. After the investigators told Griffith that they had received reports that he was making methamphetamine at the location, he gave them consent to search the house and property. During the search, Griffith showed them the items he had been using to make meth. In addition to locating many ingredients in methamphetamine as well as the utensils needed to make it, the investigators also located four long guns and a loaded .22 caliber revolver that was just outside the door of the bathroom in which Griffith had been cooking the methamphetamine. Because of a previous felony conviction, Griffith was prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition. Griffith was arrested along with Lewis Freeman Flowers, a house guest who told investigators that he and Griffith had smoked methamphetamine within a couple of hours of the investigators' arrival. Freeman also had a Glock pistol in the bedroom

where he was staying. Flowers pled guilty prior to trial pursuant to a plea agreement and testified at trial against Griffith. Several of the substances confiscated by the investigators were sent to the State of Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences laboratory where they were tested; the tests showed that the total amount of methamphetamine was 150.18 grams.

The day after he was arrested, Griffith was interviewed at the Tallapoosa County Sheriff's Office. During the interview, Griffith gave a statement to a Tallapoosa County Narcotics Task Force Investigator who typed the statement. In the statement, Griffith stated that he had been using methamphetamine for about 12 years and that he had been cooking it for three or four years. Griffith also informed the investigator of the locations where he had purchased items to make methamphetamine and admitted that all the items at the residence used to make methamphetamine were his.

On June 16, 2009, Tallapoosa County Narcotics Task Force investigators and the United States Marshals Service went to Griffith's home in Tallapoosa County to serve him with an indictment that had been returned based on the evidence recovered on February 25, 2008. While at Griffith's home, investigators found that he had two more long guns, which he told them he had brought into the house. Griffith was subsequently indicted for possessing those guns.

Griffith was charged with manufacturing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, possessing a firearm in furtherance of the drug trafficking crime of manufacturing the methamphetamine, simple possession of methamphetamine, using a place to manufacture methamphetamine, and two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Following the trial, Griffith was convicted on all counts.

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 and use of firearms.

This case was investigated through the joint efforts of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (“ATF”) and the Tallapoosa County Narcotics Task Force and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys W. Brent Woodall and Louis V. Franklin, Sr.