



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **HUDSON MAN INDICTED IN MURDER FOR HIRE SCHEME**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the return of an indictment charging Joseph Lee Musson (age 32, of Hudson) with using interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder-for-hire, using or carrying a firearm during a crime of violence, and possessing a firearm after having been convicted of a felony. If convicted on all counts, Musson faces a maximum penalty of life in federal prison. Musson is a fugitive and is on the Pasco County Sheriff Office's Most Wanted List ([www.pascosheriff.com](http://www.pascosheriff.com)).

According to the indictment, between August 1, 2009 and September 17, 2009, Musson agreed to pay another individual to commit the murder of Robert Shane Ballard. Musson used or carried a firearm in furtherance of the murder-for-hire scheme, and he previously had been convicted of possessing marijuana with intent to sell, trafficking in MDMA, and two counts of selling a controlled substance within a 1000 feet of a business.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey S. Downing.