



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CASSATT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARM CHARGE

COLUMBIA, South Carolina - - United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins announced today that GARY TRAVIS ROBERTS, age 45, of Cassatt, South Carolina, plead guilty today to being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2). Senior United States District Court Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr., accepted the guilty plea and will impose sentence after he has reviewed the presentence report, which will be prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Evidence presented during the guilty plea hearing showed that on March 2, 2009, Kershaw County 911 received a call from a woman, who indicated that she and her common-law husband GARY TRAVIS ROBERTS were on the way to the hospital with their 10 year old son, who had been shot at their Cassatt home. An

ambulance met them en route and transported the son to the hospital where he later died. Investigators responded to the Cassatt residence, where they located a loaded Remington .22 caliber rifle and several other children. The investigation revealed that both parents had left the children at the residence to run errands and that during a disagreement, the 13 year old had shot his 10 year old brother with the rifle. While at the hospital, ROBERTS admitted to law enforcement that he had obtained the rifle from his older son several months earlier and that he kept it leaning against the wall in his bedroom. The older son, who did not reside at the Cassatt home, later confirmed that he had loaned the rifle to his father.

ROBERTS, who has a prior state conviction for involuntary manslaughter is prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms and/or ammunition. ROBERTS faces a maximum of ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Kershaw County Sheriff's Department, as part of the joint federal, state, and local Project CeaseFire initiative, which aggressively prosecutes firearm cases. Assistant United States Stacey D. Haynes of the Columbia office handled the prosecution of the case.

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