

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

March 31, 2009

Contact Person

Elizabeth Altman
Assistant U.S. Attorney

EAGLE RIVER MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR SELLING COCAINE

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Kurt Schels, 30, of Eagle River, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara b. Crabb to 96 months in prison for selling cocaine. Schels pleaded guilty to this charge on January 14, 2009.

On August 25, 2008, Schels sold more than 550 grams of cocaine to an undercover officer. After his arrest, he admitted to being involved in the distribution of more than five kilograms of cocaine. Additionally, he kept a gun in his trunk for protection when he was transporting the drugs from Florida to Wisconsin.

Schels and his co-defendant, Ron Sellers, were arrested on their way back from Florida with almost 560 grams of cocaine in their vehicle. Sellers also pleaded guilty and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 7.

The charges against Schels were the result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; Vilas County Sheriff's Department; Oneida County Sheriff's Department; Oconto County Sheriff's

Department; Marinette County Sheriff's Department; Wisconsin State Patrol; the Norway, Michigan Police Department; and Dickinson County, Michigan Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

#