



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin

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**CHICAGO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING
TO INTRODUCE PROHIBITED ITEMS INTO FEDERAL PRISON CAMP**

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Mesha Hamlin, 35, of Chicago, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to attempting to introduce prohibited items into a federal prison camp at Oxford, Wis.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen L. Crocker scheduled sentencing for November 10, 2009. Hamlin faces a maximum penalty of one year in prison.

On February 8, 2009, Hamlin attempted to provide bottles of alcohol and jars of protein powder to Earnest Neal, an inmate of the Federal Prison Camp in Oxford. Neal also entered a plea to this charge on September 1, 2009, and is scheduled for sentencing on October 6, 2009.

The charge against Mesha Hamlin was the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

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