



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**MAY 7, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD, STEALING CABLE**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former business owner in Rocky Mount, Mo., was sentenced in federal court today for tax fraud and assisting in the illegal interception of cable systems services.

**James Grant Collins**, 40, of Rocky Mount, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to five years of probation, including six months in a half-way house and 100 hours of community service.

On Jan. 10, 2003, **Collins** pleaded guilty to a federal information charging him with both crimes. **Collins** is the former owner of ETS Electronics, which he operated from his residence in Rocky Mount in Morgan County.

**Collins** admitted that he failed to include \$141,244 in income on his 1997 federal income tax return. This additional income, as well as his reported income of \$144,493, was from the sale of cable equipment intended to obtain unauthorized reception of cable systems services. **Collins** also admitted he failed to include similar income on his 1996 and 1998 federal tax returns in the amounts of \$15,290 and \$125,085, respectively.

**Collins** admitted that from January 1996 to April 2000 he knowingly distributed approximately \$5.9 million of equipment for the unauthorized reception of cable systems services. **Collins** distributed the equipment to individuals and businesses, accepting orders via telephone. **Collins** used Federal Express, cash-on-delivery, to send the equipment to his customers.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Larry Miller. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service, Missouri State

Water Patrol and Missouri State Highway Patrol.

\*\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)