



## U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Northern District of Illinois  
Western Division*

*Patrick J. Fitzgerald  
United States Attorney  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/iln](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/iln)*

*308 West State Street - Room 300  
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444  
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

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### **ALGONQUIN MAN ARRESTED ON FEDERAL MURDER FOR HIRE CHARGE**

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"); and RUSSELL LAINE, Chief of the Algonquin Police Department, today made the following announcement:

**JASON W. SMIEKEL**, 29, of Algonquin, Illinois, was arrested yesterday in Elgin on a murder-for-hire charge. A criminal complaint was filed this morning in federal court in Rockford, charging Smiekel with using an interstate facility, a cell phone, in a murder-for-hire scheme. Smiekel appeared before Magistrate Judge Mahoney in Rockford this morning at 10:00 a.m. Magistrate Judge Mahoney ordered that Smiekel be detained without bond until a preliminary examination and bond hearing could be held next Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

According to the criminal complaint, Smiekel was arrested in the parking lot of a restaurant in Elgin, Illinois after passing \$7,000 in cash to an undercover ATF who was posing as a "hitman." The murder, the complaint alleged, was purportedly scheduled to take place that day around 5:30 p.m. Because of the efforts of the ATF and Algonquin Police, the intended victim was never in harm's way.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, & Explosives with the assistance of the Algonquin Police Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney John G. McKenzie.

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