



U.S. Department of Justice

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**ROCKFORD MAN SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON
ON CHARGES OF MANUFACTURING MARIJUANA**

ROCKFORD — A Rockford, Ill. man was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard to 5 years in federal prison for the manufacture of marijuana, and 5 years of supervised release following his imprisonment. The defendant, Brian E. Harris, 46, of Rockford, pled guilty to the charges on Nov. 22, 2011, and has been in federal custody since his arrest on Dec. 10, 2010.

According to the plea agreement, Harris admitted that he possessed approximately 489 marijuana plants with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance on Dec. 10, 2010. The marijuana was being grown in the basement of a home Harris lived in with co-defendant Angela Snyder, 39, also of Rockford. In the written plea agreement, Harris admitted that Snyder assisted him in harvesting and processing the marijuana for consumption, by trimming the leaves from the plants.

Drug Enforcement Administration and Illinois State Police officers executed a search warrant at Harris' residence on Dec. 10, 2010. During this search, the officers found and seized approximately 489 marijuana plants in various stages of growth, and items such as "grow" lights and fans. The agents and officers also found a ledger which listed quantities of marijuana Harris had previously grown. In addition, the agents seized a loaded shotgun leaning against the wall near the marijuana plants in the basement of the residence.

In the living room of Harris' residence, the agents found a tub containing approximately 197 grams of processed marijuana, a metal box containing marijuana seeds, and a box containing items of drug paraphernalia including a digital scale, and a police scanner. In a bedroom agents found and seized two loaded .357 caliber revolvers, as well as a mason jar containing approximately 44 grams of marijuana and items of drug paraphernalia. Harris admitted that Snyder purchased the three firearms found inside the residence at defendant's request.

The sentencing was announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Jack Riley, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Division of the Drug Enforcement Administration; and Hiram Grau, Director of the Illinois State Police. The Rockford Police Department and Loves Park Police Department assisted in the investigation.

Snyder pled guilty to the charges on Dec. 2, 2011, and is scheduled to be sentenced on May 11, 2012. Snyder faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison and up to a maximum of 40 years' imprisonment, in addition to a fine of up to \$5 million. The Court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal statutes and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph C. Pedersen.

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