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## **News Release**

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### **St. Cloud man sentenced for failing to register as a sex offender**

A 63-year-old St. Cloud man was sentenced earlier today in federal court in St. Paul for failing to register as a sex offender. United States District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank sentenced Lindon Roy Knutson to 37 months in prison on the single count. Knutson was indicted on August 9, 2010, and pleaded guilty on January 5, 2011.

Following today's sentencing, U.S. Marshal for the District of Minnesota, Sharon Lubinski, said, "The U.S. Marshals Service pursued Knutson in Minnesota and brought him to justice. I am grateful for the work of our deputy U.S. Marshals and our criminal justice partners in this case."

From August 1, 2009, through November 24, 2009, Knutson failed to update his sex offender registration, as required by the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. The requirement that Knutson register as a sex offender was based on his 1974 rape conviction in Wisconsin. Moreover, on November 24, 2009, while Knutson was in "failure to register" status, he attacked and sexually assaulted a 73-year-old woman at the Crow River Church in Kandiyohi County. He pleaded guilty in state court to one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of first-degree aggravated robbery in connection to that crime and was sentenced to 26 years in state prison on May 14, 2010. The federal sentence imposed today will run consecutive to the state sentence he is now serving.

The national sex offender registry has strong ties to Minnesota. The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act of 1994, named for the abducted child from St. Joseph, Minnesota, required, for the first time, that all states track sex offenders. The 1997 Jacob Wetterling Improvement Act, among other things, directed that all states participate in the National Sex Offender Registry, providing law enforcement with one source for information about sex offenders from across the country. That registry eventually went public via the Internet and, as of 2006, became known as the Dru Sjodin National Sex

Offender Public Website, where anyone can search for information regarding sex offenders. The website was named for a young college co-ed from Minnesota who attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and was abducted and killed in 2003. Alfonso Rodriguez was convicted of that crime in federal court and now awaits the death penalty.

The federal case filed against Knutson resulted from an investigation by the U.S. Marshals Service, the Beltrami County Sheriff's Office, the Wisconsin Office of Judicial Assistance, and the Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin S. Ueland.

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