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# **News Release**

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## **Duluth felon sentenced for possessing a firearm**

Earlier today in federal court in Duluth, a 32-year-old felon from Duluth was sentenced for possessing a Smith & Wesson .40-caliber pistol. United States District Court Chief Judge Michael J. Davis sentenced Nicholas James Worden to 60 months in prison on one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Worden was indicted on September 9, 2010, and pleaded guilty on December 14, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Worden admitted that on October 7, 2009, he possessed a Smith & Wesson .40-caliber pistol. Because he is a felon, Worden is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm or ammunition at any time. Worden's prior felony convictions, all in St. Louis County, include first-degree burglary in 1999, check forgery in 2000, and offering a forged check in 2001.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Dees.

Note, this case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods ("PSN"), an initiative launched by the U.S. Justice Department in 2001 to promote a multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime in America. PSN provides resources to strengthen law enforcement and crime prevention partnerships that work to make our streets and communities safer.

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