



Department of Justice

Office of the United States Attorney Western District of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MERRILL MAN FACES FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Paul J.J. Rasmussen, 28, of Merrill, Wis., was arraigned on Friday, January 8, 2010, in U.S. District Court in Madison, following his indictment by a federal grand jury on January 7 for attempting to manufacture methamphetamine and being in possession of materials used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Rasmussen was arrested by Lincoln County law enforcement on December 18, 2009, when he allegedly was found actively cooking methamphetamine on a property in Harding Township, Lincoln County. At his arraignment, Rasmussen entered a plea of not guilty to the federal indictment and was scheduled for trial on March 29, 2010. If convicted, Rasmussen faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

The charges against Rasmussen are the result of an investigation conducted by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department; Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation; and Merrill Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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