



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: DECEMBER 9, 2011

WILSON FOUND GUILTY OF INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE

ROBERT S. WILSON (d.o.b. 8/11/1954), of Hollister, Missouri, was found guilty by Taney County Circuit Court Judge Mark Orr of the class B felony of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, as a persistent felony drug offender. The guilty verdict was the result of a bench trial held on November 16, 2011, heard by Judge Orr and taken under advisement.

The felony drug charge resulted from a search warrant served by Taney County Sheriff's Office detectives, in cooperation with agents from the C.O.M.E.T. drug task force, at 1941 State Highway BB, in Hollister, on February 28, 2008. The search warrant was issued after an ongoing investigation by detectives into suspected methamphetamine sales being made from that address. During the search of the premises, officers discovered methamphetamine, scales, baggies, and about \$13,000.00 in cash. It was determined through investigation and a utility bill found on the premises that Wilson lived at the property.

"This case is another great example of cooperation between different law enforcement agencies. When everyone works together toward the common goal of removing a drug dealer from our community, we can accomplish these sorts of favorable results," said Taney County Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Merrell.

The class B felony for which Wilson was found guilty normally carries a range of punishment of five (5) to fifteen (15) years in the Missouri Department of Corrections. However, the Taney County Prosecutor's Office had charged Wilson as a prior and persistent drug offender – meaning Wilson has at least two (2) prior, unrelated felony drug convictions. Because the Court found that Wilson is a persistent felony drug offender, the maximum sentence in this case is the same as a class A felony: thirty (30) years or life in the Missouri Department of Corrections. Additionally, Section 195.291.2 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri states that the sentence "shall be served without probation or parole. . . ."

A sentencing date for Wilson has not yet been scheduled.

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