



WILLIAM L. GIBBONS
Shelby County District Attorney General
201 Poplar Avenue – Third Floor
Memphis, Tennessee 38103



MARK H. LUTTRELL, JR.
Shelby County Sheriff
201 Poplar Avenue – Ninth Floor
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Jennifer Donnals/901-601-1460
OR
Steve Shular/901-545-5532

**SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ROUNDS-UP NEARLY TWO
DOZEN DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR PROMOTING METH MAKING**

**GRAND JURY RETURNED 22 INDICTMENTS FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION
INTO ILLEGAL PURCHASE OF METH-MAKING INGREDIENTS**

MEMPHIS, TN – Shelby County District Attorney Bill Gibbons and Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. announced Thursday that Deputies in the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Street Crimes Bureaus arrested or attempted to arrest 22 individuals who were indicted earlier this week for allegedly buying large amounts of the ingredients used to make methamphetamine.

Deputies started the round-up of defendants early Thursday morning. The names of defendants in custody at this time will be released separately.

The state Grand Jury for Shelby County on Tuesday returned 22 criminal indictments against the defendants for numerous counts of promotion of methamphetamine manufacture. Under the Meth Free Tennessee Act of 2005, retailers are required to keep written records of customers who buy products containing pseudoephedrine, the main ingredient used to make meth, which is commonly found in many non-prescription cold and allergy medications. The law states that an individual who purchases or possesses more than nine grams of pseudoephedrine (about four boxes of the medicine, depending on the number of tablets) is in violation of a class D felony. The standard sentence for a class D felony, if convicted, is 2-4 years in prison.

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The indictments are the result of an investigation generated by information gathered following a similar operation last July, in which 11 individuals were indicted for promoting meth manufacturing. Following that operation, detectives with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Narcotics and Street Crimes Bureaus obtained information regarding other cooks and "smurfs" in the Memphis metropolitan area. Those individuals became targets of this most recent investigation.

"This has been an important investigation to help rid Shelby County of illegal drugs. The number of indictments in this case is an indicator of just how severe the methamphetamine problem is in our community and the need for us to routinely share information with neighboring law enforcement agencies," said Sheriff Luttrell.

Through October 2008, the Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force reports the number of meth labs seized in all parts of Shelby County had almost tripled, as compared to the same time period in 2007 (increasing from 12 to 32 seizures). The Shelby County Sheriff's Office reports the number of arrests of individuals associated with meth labs had more than tripled through November 2008, compared to the same time period in 2007, increasing from three to 15 arrests.

In addition to pseudoephedrine sales, the Meth Free Tennessee Act of 2005 also requires businesses to keep lists of customers who buy other products used to manufacture methamphetamine, such as ammonium nitrate or sodium hydroxide. That information is stored in a computer data base available to law enforcement agencies to monitor.

"This law is a relatively new tool that enables us to shut down meth labs before they even exist," said District Attorney Gibbons. **"Studies show that meth is even more addictive than crack cocaine. If meth ever becomes an epidemic in our community, it will make the crack cocaine epidemic look like a walk in the park,"** he warned.

Assistant District Attorney Chris Scruggs of the D.A.'s Gang and Narcotics Prosecution Unit will handle prosecution of the cases.

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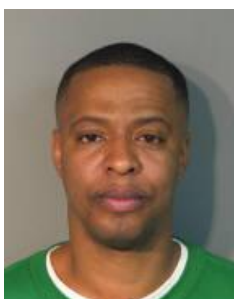


Shelby County Sheriff's Office-Narcotics/Street Crimes Bureau

**Methamphetamine Arrests and Background Information on Suspects
December 4, 2008**

All suspects listed below have been charged with three (3) counts for the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Some other charges are also noted by their names.



1. **John Hudson**, 59, of Memphis, additional misdemeanor charge, possession of meth paraphernalia



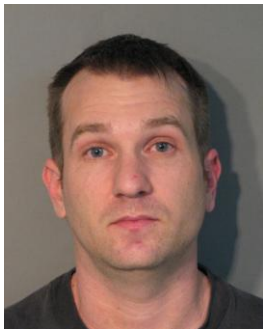
2. **Gary Pettit**, 53, of Memphis



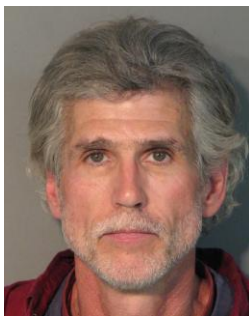
3. **John Watkins, Jr.**, 32, of Memphis



4. **Frankie Hill**, 30, of Tipton County, additional felony charge, possession of methamphetamine



5. **David Malone**, 36, of Bartlett-inactive lab found at the residence, 3179 Elmore Park Road
6. **Rusty Wilson**, 32, of Munford, TN, additional felony charge, possession of methamphetamine. Also an active meth lab was also discovered at his home, 259 Adkins Circle, Munford, TN. A woman at the house was also arrested. Wilson's 4 week-old child was also taken into custody by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. Wilson may face additional charges for having a child on the premises of a meth lab



7. **Junior Griggs**, 50, of Arlington, additional felony charge, possession of methamphetamine-Also an inactive meth lab was found at his residence at 5600 Lamb Road



8. **Ricky Williams**, 39, of Cordova



9. **Ronnie Williams**, 39, of Cordova, TWIN BROTHER of Ricky Williams



10. **Larry D. Stafford**, 30, Brighton, TN. An active meth lab was found at his residence, 1864 Indian Creek Road, Brighton, TN



11. **Sandra Sanders**, 48, of Millington



12. **Ricky Poole**, 31, of Burlison, TN



13. **Scott Mahaffy**, 44, of Memphis. A disassembled meth lab was found at his house in Memphis, 4837 Sturbridge Lane



14. **Richard Goss**, 37, Munford, TN



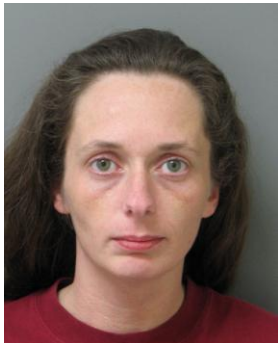
15. **Joe Boyd**, 47, of Millington TN-inactive lab found at the home-302 Wipporwill, Millington



16. **Sandra Boyd**, 40, wife of Joe Boyd, also of 302 Wipporwill in Millington, TN,
TN



17. **Steven Poole**, 28, of Munford-inactive lab found at his business address (junk
yard at 1093 Chelsea-Memphis)



18. **Tonya Hardin**, 33, of Memphis