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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Covington Man Indicted for Murder for Hire

Memphis, TN- David Kustoff, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee announced today that Billy Johnson, age 48 , of 146 Wooten Johnson Road, in Tipton County, Tennessee was indicted by a federal grand jury in a 15 count indictment charging Use of Interstate Facilities Related to a Murder for Hire and Perjury.

The indictment charges seven counts of Use of Mails, Interstate Facilities, and Interstate Travel in Relation to Murder for Hire in violation of Title 18 U. S. C. 1958. The indictment alleges that in July of 1999, Johnson solicited individuals to murder Martha Johnson, the defendant's mother, and allegedly agree to pay \$50,000 to an individual for the murder of Ms. Johnson.

The indictment also charges eight counts of perjury in the Grand Jury. The indictment alleges that the defendant denied soliciting various persons to kill his mother and the defendant tried to obstruct the investigation into his mother's death by asking a witness not report information to law enforcement.

The indictment is a result of a seven year joint investigation with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Tennessee State Bomb and Arson, and the Tipton County Sheriff's office.

Each count of Related to the Murder for Hire carries a potential death penalty and a \$250,000.00 fine. Each count of Perjury carries a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

In a related case in July 2004, Danny Winberry was indicted for the murder of Ms. Johnson.

Assistant United States Attorney Steve Parker and Tony Arvin are handling these cases for the government.

Mr. Kustoff praised the extensive and dedicated investigation of Captain John Fletcher, of the Tipton County Sheriff's Department, Special Agent Roger Turner, of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and Special Agent Paul Kwiatkowski, of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Explosives.

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Note: Charges brought against a person through an indictment are accusations only. That person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.