



# ATF News

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Nashville Field Division

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## **ALABAMA CONVICTED FELON SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR POSSESSING FIREARM USED IN ROBBERY AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— Special Agent in Charge James Cavanaugh of the Nashville Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Leura Garrett Canary, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, today announced that Darren Smiley, 29 of Luverne, Ala., was sentenced to 360 months in prison for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

Smiley, who was convicted of the charge following a November 2005 jury trial, had previous multiple felony convictions, including for unlawful distribution of a controlled substance in Crenshaw County Circuit Court in Alabama and received two years probation. Under federal law, convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition. Smiley was also convicted of other drug-related felonies which qualified him for an enhanced sentence under the federal guidelines.

“Smiley attacked an innocent victim, his acts are synonymous with a dangerous street predator,” Cavanaugh said. “If Smiley was not quickly arrested by the Luverne Police and the case not vigorously prosecuted, further violence by him would only be a matter of time.”

According to case background, on October 14, 2004, Smiley robbed \$50 from a 67 year old woman and sodomized her at gunpoint behind a local store. Investigation by the Luverne Police Department (LPD) led to the recovery of the bandana Smiley used in an attempt to conceal his identity along with the firearm he possessed. Smiley was arrested without incident following the attack based on witness description. ATF was later contacted to open a federal firearms investigation.

This case is the result of the combined efforts of ATF and LPD under a Project Safe Neighborhoods violent crime reduction initiative known locally as “Alabama ICE” (Isolate the Criminal Element). Assistant U.S. Attorney Verne Speirs handled prosecution for the United States. More information on ATF is at [ww.atf.gov](http://ww.atf.gov).

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