



Department of Justice

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**CHIPPEWA FALLS MAN SENTENCED
ON METHAMPHETAMINE CHARGE**

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Richard Koput, 45, of Chippewa Falls, Wis., was sentenced Friday by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Conley to 130 months in prison for conspiring to possess pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine. This prison term will be followed by three years of supervised release. Koput pleaded guilty to this charge November 8, 2010.

Koput admitted making methamphetamine in the area of Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire from June 2009 until he was arrested in April 2010. Agents were able to locate pseudoephedrine logs from several stores in the area that contained the names of people he was having buy the pseudoephedrine needed to make methamphetamine. Koput told officers who interviewed him that he would not buy the pseudoephedrine himself because he did not want to have his name on any of the pseudoephedrine logs that were kept by the stores.

In sentencing Koput, Judge Conley focused on Koput's extensive criminal history and said that he created havoc in the area. Judge Conley was also concerned that Koput had been teaching others to make methamphetamine.

The charges against Koput were the result of an investigation conducted by the West Central Drug Task Force and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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