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United States Attorney's Office
District of Oregon

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Portland Man Sentenced to Federal Prison for Intending to Distribute Meth

PORTLAND, Ore.—A Portland, Oregon, man was sentenced to federal prison today for possession with intent to distribute more than 500g of methamphetamine, announced U.S. Attorney Scott E. Bradford for the District of Oregon.

James Paul Arnold, 55, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison and 5 years' supervised release.

According to court documents, in May 2024, Arnold was caught with \$8,490, a loaded handgun, a digital scale, crack cocaine, a container with meth residue, a large plastic bag of meth, and smaller plastic bags. The total weight of the meth, including packaging, was 2,261.8 grams. Law enforcement searched Arnold's residence the same day. In Arnold's room they found a container with 72 grams of suspected meth shards and residue, multiple other containers with suspected meth residue, a money counter, and a loaded handgun. In other parts of the home, law enforcement found a stolen AR-15 rifle, a semi-automatic handgun, a ballistic vest, and another gun. Arnold was arrested.

On May 6, 2026, Arnold pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute 500g or more of methamphetamine.

This case was investigated by Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit and the FBI. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jessica Keefer, Kate Rochat, and Julia Jarrett.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is the Department of Justice's nationwide initiative that brings federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, prosecutors, and other public safety partners together to coordinate efforts to combat violent crime and make communities safe. Coordinated by U.S. Attorneys' offices in each of the 94 federal districts, PSN is tailored to particular communities to strategically address specific violent crime and public safety challenges. As a key component of Operation Take Back America, PSN serves a central role in the Department's commitment to make our country safe. PSN emphasizes three core principles: rapid federal response to violent crime and criminal offenders; strong, strategic partnerships among law enforcement at all levels; and accountability and deterrence through the prosecution of the most serious, readily provable offenses and other strategies. These efforts complement and strengthen President Trump's Homeland Security Task Forces, ensuring a comprehensive federal response to the most pressing public safety issues facing communities.

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