

St. Joseph man sentenced for conspiracy to distribute heroin

**(KNZA)--A St. Joseph, Missouri man has been sentenced to 10 years and six months in federal prison without parole for his role in a conspiracy to distribute heroin and for illegally possessing firearms.**

**The U.S. Department of Justice said in a release that 43-year-old Franklin Hicks Jr., also known as “Frankie,” was handed the sentence Wednesday in federal court. Hicks pleaded guilty in May 2022 to participating in a conspiracy to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin in the St. Joseph area from Sept. 1, 2019, to March 26, 2021, and to two counts of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime.**

**Authorities say Hicks was in possession of 35.8 grams of heroin, nearly \$2,700 cash and two firearms when he was arrested outside a hotel in St. Joseph in January 2021.**

**He is the third and final defendant to be sentenced in the case.**

**The case was investigated by the St. Joseph Police Department, the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office, DEA, and ATF.**

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