



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY MCMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## Five Indicted In Pickens County For Dog Fighting and Drug Trafficking

**Columbia, S.C.** – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that the Pickens County Grand Jury indicted five (5) individuals for dog fighting and a variety of drug charges on July 19, 2005. The following individuals were indicted:

**Bryant Elree Bowens**, 25, of 162 Bowen Road in Easley, was indicted on seventeen (17) counts of Animal Fighting (§16-27-30), one (1) count of Conspiracy (§16-17-410), and one (1) count of Trafficking Marijuana More than Ten (10) Pounds (§44-53-370).

**William Rudolph Bowens, Sr.**, 52, of 162 Bowen Road in Easley, was indicted on one (1) count of Conspiracy (§16-17-410) and one (1) count of Trafficking Marijuana More than Ten (10) Pounds (§44-53-370).

**Teresa Chavis Bowens**, 50, of 162 Bowen Road in Easley, was indicted on one (1) count of Conspiracy (§16-17-410) and one (1) count of Trafficking Marijuana More than Ten (10) Pounds (§44-53-370).

**William R. Bowens, Jr.**, 29, of 162 Bowen Road in Easley, was indicted on seventeen (17) counts of Animal Fighting (§16-27-30), one (1) count of Conspiracy (§16-17-410).

**James Brandon Harris**, 26, of 162 Bowen Road in Easley, was indicted on one (1) count of Trafficking Marijuana More than Ten (10) Pounds (§44-53-370).

The maximum possible punishment for the above-referenced offenses are as follows:

Animal Fighting (§16-27-30), felony: up to five (5) years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$5,000.

Trafficking Marijuana More than Ten (10) Pounds (§44-53-370), felony: up to ten (10) years imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000.

Conspiracy (§16-17-410), felony: up to five (5) years imprisonment or a fine of \$5,000.

The indictments allege that on or about September 22, 2004, agents from the Pickens County Sheriff's Office and SLED supervised a controlled purchase of both crack cocaine and marijuana from Bryant Bowens and James Brandon Harris at their residence. Based on these transactions, agents obtained a search warrant for the residence and surrounding property.

On or about October 1, 2004, agents executed the search warrant and located approximately twenty-two (22) pounds of marijuana, weight scales, and plastic sandwich bags. Also during the search, agents observed several Pit Bull Terriers on the property. The dogs had marks and scars on them that were consistent with dog fighting activity. There were other items located on the property, such as treadmills and spring poles, to indicate that the dogs were being trained for fighting purposes. An additional warrant was sought for the dogs and the items related to dog fighting. That warrant was executed the same day.

Bryant Bowens and his brother, William Bowens, Jr., along with their parents, Teresa Bowens and William Bowens, Sr., and James Brandon Harris were arrested.

A trial date has not been set. Attorney General McMaster stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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