



Department of Justice

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HUSBAND AND WIFE SENTENCED IN FRAUD CONSPIRACY

Dale and Christina Roberts Stole \$386,000 In Scheme to Defraud CheckFree Corporation, Dale Roberts' Former Employer

Atlanta, GA - LAWRENCE DALE ROBERTS, 43, and CHRISTINA McFADD ROBERTS, 36, husband and wife defendants of Marietta, Georgia, were sentenced today by Chief United States District Judge Jack T. Camp on charges of conspiracy to defraud CheckFree Corporation ("CheckFree"), defendant DALE ROBERTS' former employer.

"Self-dealing and dishonesty in an employment relationship becomes criminal when employees abuse their employer's trust to reap substantial personal profits," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. "In this case, one of the defendants was an employee at CheckFree who secretly entered into service agreements with his wife's company at 100% profit margins and ultimately raided CheckFree's treasury to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are now headed to federal prison."

DALE ROBERTS was sentenced to 3 years in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. CHRISTINA ROBERTS was sentenced to 1 year and 3 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. Both defendants were also ordered to pay \$386,006 in restitution to CheckFree. Both defendants pleaded guilty to conspiracy on October 20, 2006.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: From May 1999 through October 2002, DALE ROBERTS was a CheckFree employee, responsible for network operations and contract management. In these capacities, DALE ROBERTS contracted with outside staffing agencies to provide technical support and administrative personnel to CheckFree. Beginning in February 2000, DALE ROBERTS caused CheckFree to engage independent contractors from Harbor Consulting Group ("Harbor"), a sole proprietorship owned by CHRISTINA ROBERTS. The hourly rates Harbor charged CheckFree were marked up 100% over the hourly rates Harbor paid its contractors, who received no other benefits from Harbor.

To conceal their interest in Harbor from CheckFree, the defendants recruited and paid a neighbor to serve as Harbor's straw president, occasionally providing him with a "business" cell phone registered to DALE ROBERTS. Although the neighbor was a signatory on Harbor's bank account, CHRISTINA ROBERTS forged his signature on numerous Harbor check drafts. She also leased a commercial mailbox to serve as Harbor's business address, using use her home address. Because the defendants had no costs or expenses other than the hourly rates they paid their contractors, they essentially pocketed the 100% mark-up they charged CheckFree; profits that amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of their scheme, with payment guaranteed by DALE ROBERTS' abuse of his employment relationship with CheckFree.

The defendants also recruited another neighbor to move computer equipment on CheckFree's behalf from out-of-state to CheckFree's Norcross headquarters, again concealing their relationship with this individual from CheckFree and marking up his fees and expenses by 100%. The ROBERT's stole approximately \$23,000 from this component of their fraud scheme.

The conspiracy charge stems from the defendants' scheme to supply contractor personnel to CheckFree, which is a leading provider of electronic financial services headquartered in Norcross, Georgia, at an illicit 100% profit, as well as certain computer equipment transfer services to CheckFree, also at a 100% profit. The ROBERT's received \$386,000 in illegal proceeds from their criminal scheme because, for the duration of their conspiracy, DALE ROBERTS was a CheckFree employee, responsible for the negotiation and management of outside vendor agreements. DALE and his wife, who actively concealed their vendor relationship with CheckFree, were thus able to contract with themselves at profit margins DALE ROBERTS effectively guaranteed CheckFree would pay.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The United States Attorney's Office also recognizes the extraordinary assistance of CheckFree Corporation.

Assistant United States Attorneys Paul Monnin and Aaron Danzig prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.