



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **FORMER WAITRESS ACCUSED OF CREDIT CARD SKIMMING**

United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly today announced the indictment of Katsiaryna Kabiarets, 23, a waitress formerly employed at Harpoon Hanna's restaurant in Fenwick, Delaware. Kabiarets was indicted by a federal grand jury on one count of conspiracy to commit credit card fraud, one count of aggravated identity theft, and four counts of identity theft.

According to the Indictment and the criminal complaint filed in the case, between August 2005, and November 2005, Kabiarets used a credit card "skimmer" to extract account information from the magnetic strip on the back of restaurant customers' credit cards. Kabiarets had previously agreed with a co-conspirator to steal the skimmed account information in exchange for \$10 to \$15 per account. Kabiarets admitted to investigators that she had used the skimmer about 50 times.

U.S. Attorney Connolly said of the case: "Identity theft is an ongoing problem in our society. Delawareans should be able to patronize businesses safe in the knowledge that their private financial information won't be stolen and sold for profit."

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. Assistant United States Attorney Douglas E. McCann is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, Kabiarets faces a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment for the count of conspiracy to commit credit card fraud and 3 years imprisonment for each count of identity theft. In addition, if she is convicted of aggravated identity theft, she faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 2 years imprisonment consecutive to any other sentence imposed. Kabiarets also faces a maximum fine of \$250,000 for each count.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

For additional information, please contact Public Information Officer Kimberlyn Reeves at 302-573-6277, ext. 146.

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