



Department of Justice

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GREENCASTLE MAN CONVICTED IN PASSPORT FRAUD

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that THOMAS JERRY HUDSON, 74, Greencastle, Indiana, was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following his guilty plea to making a false statement in an application for a passport. This case was the result of a 18 month long investigation by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the United States Marshals Service.

HUDSON was charged in Putnam County, Indiana in September, 2004 with child molestation and ordered to surrender his United States passport as a condition of release on bond. The passport was surrendered to the Putnam Circuit Court on September 14. On June 11, 2005, HUDSON completed an application for a United States passport at an Indianapolis post office. HUDSON stated that his original passport had been accidentally destroyed in a trash fire at his residence. A new passport was issued to HUDSON in reliance on that false statement.

In July, 2005, HUDSON failed to appear for a final pretrial conference in the state case. Investigation revealed that HUDSON used the passport issued in June, 2005 to leave the United States on August 7, 2005 and to travel to Caracas, Venezuela. He was located after business records showed that he began withdrawing funds from a military pension in Venezuela in August 2006.

HUDSON was indicted by a federal grand jury in September, 2006. The State Department then revoked the fraudulently obtained passport and the Venezuelan government expelled HUDSON. He was taken into custody by United States authorities and returned to Indiana.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Christina McKee, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 2 years supervised release following HUDSON's release from imprisonment.

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