Department of Justice

HAINES CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF DOCUMENT MAKING IMPLEMENTS

Tampa, FL - United States District Judge Steven D. Merryday today sentenced RICKY REYNOLDS, age 50, of Haines City, Florida, to a term of imprisonment of 37 months for possession of document-making implements to be used in the production of false identification documents. REYNOLDS pled guilty to the charge on March 6, 2008.

According to the indictment and the plea agreement in the case, law enforcement agents conducted a consent search at the residence of RICKY REYNOLDS in Polk County, Florida on April 23, 2003. While doing so, they found numerous items of un-delivered mail addressed to a large number of other persons, many of which contained identifying features and information about those addressees and some checks made payable to those addressees. They also found computer equipment and discs which contained transparencies and other formatting devices for use in the creation of counterfeit State of Florida drivers licenses. In addition to the large number of stolen mail items, agents found counterfeit Florida drivers licenses and Postal Service mail box keys. Further investigation revealed that REYNOLDS had used some of those names and addresses to create counterfeit checks and Florida drivers licenses. Those counterfeit checks were then

used to purchase merchandise from local retailers fraudulently. Using this method of fraudulent purchases himself, REYNOLDS alone caused local retailers to lose in excess of $27,000.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the assistance of the Polk County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Tampa Division.