



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:  
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Event: Convicted

Defendant: Bobbie Jean Sinko

### MT. PLEASANT WOMAN CONVICTED OF DEFRAUDING THE UNITED STATES

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A 52-year-old Mt. Pleasant, Michigan woman was found guilty Friday, March 13, 2009, by a federal jury in Bay City on one charge of conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Postal Service, and 31 fraud-related and embezzlement counts, United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Joseph A. Pirone, Jr., Inspector In Charge of the Detroit Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The jury deliberated for two and one-half days before returning the verdict, concluding an eight-day trial before United States District Judge Thomas L. Ludington.

The evidence presented at trial showed that Bobbie Jean Sinko, who was a bulk mail technician at the Mt. Pleasant post office for many years, and Matthew English, the owner of English Direct Mail Services LLC in Mt. Pleasant, a company which prepared bulk mail for

submission to the post office which would then be submitted to the Mt. Pleasant postal facility for delivery, conspired to defraud the postal service of hundreds of thousands of dollars, beginning in 2004 and extending through the fall of 2007. English pled guilty to the conspiracy charge on October 15, 2008. He was sentenced to a term of 24-months imprisonment by Judge Ludington on February 26, 2009, and ordered to pay \$428,000 in restitution to the U.S. Postal Service. English cooperated with the government and testified against Sinko at trial. As a result, the government may ask Judge Ludington to reduce English's sentence to a term of 16 months.

United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "The collusion between a U.S. Postal Service employee and a private mail service to defraud the United States Postal service will not be tolerated. We have the best mail service in the world and we will prosecute those who try to game the system."

Inspector Joseph Pirone stated, "Protecting Postal Service's revenue is a key function of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. This case shows our obligation to pursuing criminal schemes and ruining a thief's ability to execute them. One of missions of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is to ensure the health and success of the Postal Service by identifying and prosecuting fraudulent activities of dishonest mailers who deliberately exploit internal agency controls to avoid proper payment of postage."

Berg commended the work of the Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

A sentencing date has been set for June 25th. Sinko faces up to 10 years' imprisonment. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James A. Brunson.