



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 11, 2008
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MUNCIE MAN SENTENCED IN ARSON-FOR- PROFIT SCHEME

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that ADRIAN KIRTZ, 29, Muncie, Indiana, was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following his guilty plea to using arson to commit mail fraud (arson-for-profit). This case was the result of a more than two year investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives and the Muncie Police Department.

KIRTZ was arrested as a result of a narcotics transaction in Muncie. He agreed to cooperate with law enforcement authorities in this investigation and confessed to his involvement in two fires.

KIRTZ and an accomplice owned a house together, at 1112 E. 8th Street, in Muncie. An insurance policy was taken out on the house from Nationwide, and KIRTZ arranged for Carlos Walton and an accomplice to set the house on fire in order to collect the insurance money. This fire occurred on August 4, 2005. Nationwide paid \$216,552 as a result of this fire-loss claim. Walton pled guilty and was sentenced to 24 months in May 2008.

On December 15, 2005, KIRTZ paid another accomplice to set a fire at 4701 N. Rosewood, in Muncie, Indiana. KIRTZ had purchased this house on contract, with accomplices, just a few weeks prior to the occurrence of the fire. The officially listed straw-purchaser of this house has admitted involvement in this scheme and has corroborated details of this incident. This acquaintance obtained an insurance policy with Erie Insurance. Erie Insurance ultimately paid approximately \$167,230 as a result of this fire-loss claim.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Winfield D. Ong, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 3 years supervised release following KIRTZ's release from imprisonment. KIRTZ was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$383,782.82.

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