



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DAUGHTER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MOTHER'S CREDIT CARDS

Chandler woman took \$27,000, mostly from her parent's credit cards after she added herself to accounts

PHOENIX – Colleen Bridget Spence, 24, of Chandler, Ariz., was sentenced here by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia to one year and a day in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Spence was also ordered to pay restitution of \$27,720.11 after she pleaded guilty to one count of Mail Fraud on November 28, 2007.

Spence admitted that from September to November 2005, she engaged in a scheme to obtain money by fraudulently adding herself to her mother's credit card accounts without her mother's permission. Spence then directed the new credit cards be sent to her via the mail. Spence was unemployed at the time and used the credit cards to obtain in excess of \$27,000 in goods and services. Her spending spree was ended by an arrest after an investigation by the U. S. Postal Inspection Service.

Spence was revoked from pretrial release in August 2007 and held in a federal detention center after it was determined that while on court ordered release, she had defrauded a gentleman friend by using his credit cards to obtain lodgings. She also was found to have presented, also while on release, a fraudulent certificate for a complimentary room at a hotel.

Spence's father testified at the sentencing hearing that his daughter had been estranged from his family for more than four years while she engaged in illegal drugs and alcohol. Mr. Spence further stated that when the frauds were discovered, he and his wife had no choice other than to file affidavits of forgery regarding the credit card applications as to their daughter's misconduct. Mr. Spence noted that he had seen an improvement in his daughter's psychological well being while in jail and offered to provide her a home and help with employment opportunities upon her release.

During the sentencing hearing on February 4, 2008, Judge Murguia noted the extensive damage Spence had caused her family and various other victims, along with her illegal conduct while on pretrial release, as a reason for imposing a prison sentence. The supervised release will be monitored by the U.S. Probation Office while the defendant resides in California near her parents after her incarceration. The restitution will be paid to the listed victims once Spence is in a position to do so based upon her financial abilities.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution was handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-383-PHX-MHM
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