



Department of Justice

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EVANSVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR FRAUD SCHEME

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JAMES A. WRIGHT, 63, Evansville, Indiana, was sentenced to 129 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his guilty plea to bank fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud and identity theft. This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department.

On December 22, 2009, WRIGHT plead guilty to an eight-count indictment charging that between August, 2005 and February, 2007, he engaged in various schemes to defraud involving the use of the U.S. Mail, interstate wire communications, and banking institutions.

WRIGHT admitted he started perpetuating new fraud schemes while serving a sentence in a federal work release center for a previous fraud conviction involving a loss of \$1.3 million dollars. WRIGHT admitted obtaining mortgage, car, and boat loans using false information that represented to the banks making the loans that he had assets and that he had held a high paying job for many years. In fact, WRIGHT was serving a prison sentence before he applied for the loans. In addition, WRIGHT admitted that he did not inform creditors that he had a \$1.3 million dollar criminal restitution order that he had not paid when making the fraudulent loan applications.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed 5 years supervised release following WRIGHT's release from imprisonment. WRIGHT was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$571,902.

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