



# Department of Justice

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## **JOSEPH WYNN YOUNG SENTENCED TO OVER 5 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR SENDING WHITE POWDER TO U.S. SENATOR**

Rome, GA - JOSEPH WYNN YOUNG, 30, of Cartersville, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Harold L. Murphy on charges of mailing a threatening letter that contained white powder to the Washington, D.C. office of Senator Saxby Chambliss. The presence of the white powder, which was discovered by the Washington, D.C. mail handling facility before the letter was delivered to the Senator's office, caused the shut down of the facility until the suspect substance was determined to be harmless.

"It is important that we take a strong stand against the mailing of these types of threats, even where, as in this case, the white powder turns out to be harmless," said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. "Letters like this scare those who receive them and cost the government money and time when operations at vital facilities are shut down while the potential threat is assessed."

YOUNG was sentenced to 5 years, 3 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system. YOUNG pleaded guilty to the charge of mailing a threatening communication on February 10, 2006.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: On June 4, 2005, YOUNG, who was housed in the Bartow (Georgia) County Jail on fraud charges, sent the letter containing white powder to Senator Chambliss' office. YOUNG said he sent the threatening letter to initiate a federal case, which he hoped would cause him to be moved from a state jail to a federal prison, where YOUNG believed he would live in better jail conditions. On June 10, 2005, the letter was found by mail handlers, who alerted security personnel. There was no harmful substance in the letter. The case was not charged federally until after YOUNG had finished his state sentence in the state facility, and according to Nahmias, YOUNG therefore did not get his wish to serve out his state sentence in a federal facility.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Kim S. Dammers prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Yonette Sam-Buchanan, Chief, Terrorism, Violent Crimes and Firearms Unit, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).