



Department of Justice

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OPERATORS OF DRIVER LICENSE MILL CHARGED IN COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENTS FRAUD SCHEME

Ocala, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announces the return by a grand jury of a twenty-two count indictment charging Gaitrie Latchman (46), Rajin A. Latchman (28), and Ted B. Shirley (49), all residents of Winter Garden, with a conspiracy that involved making false statements in applications to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the creation and transfer of false identification documents, and the altering and transfer of foreign passports. While the indictment charges all of the defendants with transferring false identification documents and with furnishing altered passports to others, it also includes counts charging Gaitrie Latchman and Rajin A. Latchman with making false statements in applications to USCIS, and charging Gaitrie Latchman with applying for and obtaining United States citizenship while knowing that she was not eligible for citizenship. If convicted on all counts, Rajin Latchman and Ted Shirley face a maximum penalty of 15 years in federal prison, and Gaitrie Latchman faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison.

According to the indictment, Gaitrie Latchman and Rajin Latchman would, for a fee of between \$2,500 and \$3,000, arrange for illegal aliens to obtain a Florida driver license. They were allegedly assisted by Shirley, who was an examiner at the Clermont office of

the Florida Department of Driver Licenses (FDDL). As part of their services, the Latchmans would provide immigration and identification documents to the aliens, for them to present at the FDDL office. To obtain such documents, the Latchmans would file applications with USCIS, so as to cause the issuance of Form I-797C Notices of Action, which served as both an immigration classification document and as proof of identity. The Latchmans also altered I-797C Notices and foreign passports. According to the indictment, the Latchmans coordinated with Shirley so that their customers would make contact only with Shirley when they came to the FDDL office, thereby avoiding any scrutiny of such documents. During this period of criminal activity, Gaitrie Latchman also applied for naturalization and obtained U.S. citizenship.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Florida Highway Patrol and by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sam Armstrong.