

NEWS

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Former Postmaster Sentenced to Prison in Connection With Theft of U.S. Postal Monies

(More)

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CAMDEN – A former Postmaster at the U.S. Post Office in Absecon was sentenced to five months in federal prison and five months of home confinement today for making false entries and reports of moneys or securities in connection with his scheme to deceive the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez also ordered Charles Lynch, 57, who formerly resided in Galloway Township and moved to Ohio last year, to pay approximately \$115,000 in restitution to the U.S. Postal Service and to serve 3 years of supervised release upon the completion of his confinement. Judge Rodriguez continued the defendant's released on a \$50,000 unsecured bond pending his surrender to the officials with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on a date to be determined.

Lynch pleaded guilty before Judge Rodriguez on July 31, 2007, to the one-count Information. At his plea hearing, Lynch stated that from January to June 2005 he was the Postmaster of the U.S. Post Office in Absecon, and as such, his responsibilities included monitoring the inventories and keeping accounts and records of stamps and money in three vending machines, specifically two stamp vending machines in the Absecon Post Office lobby and one stamp vending machine at a grocery store called "The Store" in Galloway Township.

Lynch admitted that he made false and fictitious entries in the accounts and records regarding deposits of stamps into the stamp vending machine located at The Store. Lynch admitted that he did so with the intent to deceive the United States Postal Service. Furthermore, Lynch admitted that as Postmaster he abused a position of public trust in a manner that significantly facilitated the commission or concealment of the offense.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Rodriguez consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the U.S. Postal Service - Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jane Hughes, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Skahill of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: David. S. Dessen, Esq. Willow Grove, Pa.