



PRESS NOTICE

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February 9, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPARTANBURG IDENTITY THIEF SENTENCED

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Teresa Miner Grell, age 43, of Spartanburg, was sentenced today in federal court in Anderson, for using stolen means of identification, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028(a)(7). Senior United States District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. of Anderson sentenced Grell to 15 months imprisonment.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that on December 3, 2010, Grell was arrested by Spartanburg police officers when she attempted to pass a stolen and altered check at First Citizens Bank. In Grell's car, officers found 81 pieces of stolen mail, a computer, check stock, and other

implements of counterfeiting. Officers also found handwritten notes containing the names, dates of birth, and social security numbers of multiple individuals. Some of the stolen checks had already altered by Grell to make them payable to herself.

Further investigation revealed that Grell had been stealing mail in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties in the two months prior to her arrest. She used the personal identifiers from the stolen mail to create false driver's licenses that she used when passing the counterfeit or altered checks. Law enforcement estimates that Grell passed several thousand dollars worth of counterfeit or altered checks before she was arrested.

The case was investigated by agents of the Spartanburg Department of Public Safety and the United States Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

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