



# PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **UPSTATE MAIL THIEF SENTENCED TO 6 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT**

**Columbia, South Carolina** ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Michael Dennis Rice, age 34, of Abbeville, South Carolina, was sentenced today in federal court in Anderson, for mail theft , a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1708. Senior United States District Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. of Anderson sentenced Rice to 6 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that on May 27, 2009, Rice stole a Ford F-150 from the parking lot at the Haywood Mall in Greenville. On May 28, 2009, Abbeville Police received a tip that the stolen truck was located in Thompson Circle in Anderson. When police arrived, they

encountered Rice. He led police on a high-speed chase and eventually wrecked his vehicle. In the vehicle, police found large quantities of stolen mail. Further investigation revealed that Rice was stealing mail for use in a counterfeit check scheme. Rice was arrested, however, before he could successfully print any bogus checks.

The case was investigated by the Abbeville Police Department and agents of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

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