

NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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MAN SENTENCED FOR STRUCTURING FINANCIAL TRANSACTION

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, today announced the sentencing of a defendant for his involvement in structuring a financial transaction in Williamson County, IL . The sentencing took place in United States District Court at Benton, Illinois on January 25, 2007.

GARY SULLIVAN, age 64, of Freeman Spur, Illinois, was sentenced to 6 months home confinement, 3 years probation and ordered to pay \$10,000 in fines and \$62,142. 87 in restitution to victims. He was sentenced based upon his October 26, 2006, plea of guilty to an indictment returned against him by a United States Grand Jury in Benton, Illinois. That indictment alleged that on or about September 12, 2000, through September 15, 2000, he structured a financial transaction with a financial institution, the Bank of Herrin, for purposes of evading the reporting requirements of federal law. Federal law requires that any financial transaction involving more than \$10,000 in currency must be reported by the financial institution to a national financial center. It is a violation of federal law to structure the financial transaction in such a way that a report would not be generated by the bank.

At the hearing on his change of plea, the defendant admitted to selling a stolen backhoe for \$40,000 and asking the buyer to give him four \$10,000 checks which he then cashed at the Bank of Herrin between September 12th and 15th of 2000. He spread out the transactions to avoid the having the transactions reported and to avoid detection for the theft of the backhoe. The stipulation entered into by the defendant contained an admission that he sold two other stolen tractors in a similar way by advertising them in a local publication. As part of his plea, the defendant agreed to make restitution to the victims. He paid the restitution amount to the Clerk of the Court before sentencing and the Clerk has been directed to distribute the restitution to the victims.

The investigation of this case was handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and it was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Thomas Leggans, Michael Thompson and Michael Carr.