



# Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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## **SERIAL CHECK KITER SENTENCED TO OVER 7 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

### *Williams Wrote and Deposited over \$5.5 Million in Fraudulent Checks*

ATLANTA, GA - KIMBERLY WILLIAMS, 36, of Gary, Indiana, and formerly of Alpharetta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Willis B. Hunt to serve over 7 years in federal prison on a bank fraud charge in connection with a massive check kiting scheme that targeted more than a half a dozen Atlanta area financial institutions.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "This defendant's criminal conduct threatened the financial security of two banks by exposing them to over \$5 million in losses. This defendant wrote and deposited worthless checks totaling over \$5.5 million, taking a gamble that the funds would be released to her before the banks discovered her fraud. Today's prison sentence rightfully places the defendant on the losing side of her bet."

"The U. S. Postal Inspection Service has investigated financial crimes for many years. Our mission is to protect the U. S. mail from people like the defendant. The defendant took a bet that she could not win. Postal Inspectors will continue to aggressively investigate those who insist on using the U. S. mail to further fraudulent schemes," said Martin D. Phanco, U. S. Postal Inspector in Charge, Atlanta Division.

WILLIAMS was sentenced 7 years, 6 month in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. WILLIAMS pleaded guilty to the charge on February 16, 2010.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: Beginning in August 2005 and continuing until approximately January 2008, WILLIAMS devised and executed a scheme to defraud several Atlanta area financial institutions through an activity known as "check kiting." WILLIAMS opened numerous personal, business, investment, and certificate of deposit accounts at such institutions as Ameriprise Financial, BB&T Bank, Best Bank, Capitol City Bank,

Flagstar Bank, Regions Bank, Sovereign Bank, SunTrust Bank and Wachovia. WILLIAMS deposited non-sufficient funds and closed account checks into the newly opened accounts, quickly withdrawing funds or writing other checks before the banks discovered that the deposited checks would not be honored. In total, WILLIAMS wrote and deposited \$5,584,009.74 worth of checks.

This case was investigated by Inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

Assistant United States Attorney Jamila M. Hall prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.justice.gov/usao/gan](http://www.justice.gov/usao/gan).