

NEWS

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Bridgeton Man Sentenced to 42 Months for Counterfeiting Commercial Checks

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Bridgeton man was sentenced to 42 months in federal prison today for making and possessing counterfeited securities, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr, announced.

U.S. District Judge Jerome B. Simandle also ordered George Davis, 40, to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison sentence. Davis has been in custody since his arrest by Egg Harbor Township police officers on Aug. 8, 2007.

Davis pleaded guilty before Judge Simandle on May 27, 2008, to a one-count Information that charged him with making and possessing counterfeited securities of an organization with the intent to deceive another person and organization.

At his plea hearing, Davis admitted that at the time of his arrest he was residing at the Ramada Limited Motel in Egg Harbor Township. Davis admitted that he possessed numerous counterfeit commercial checks, including counterfeit payroll checks of Bell Laboratory Inc., made out to numerous payees and totaling \$42,000, as well as blank check refill paper and check making software. Davis admitted that he intended to deceive other organizations, including various banks, by presenting and negotiating these counterfeit payroll checks as well as other fraudulent checks.

According to a criminal Complaint, which was signed on Sept. 17, 2007, Egg Harbor Township Police Officers were conducting a check of license plates at the motel on Aug. 8, 2007, when they learned that Davis, who was wanted on outstanding warrants in Florida, Virginia and Atlantic County, was residing at the hotel. In response to questioning, Davis denied that he was the individual who the officers were looking for and stated that he was George Davis's brother, Michael Baxter. While attempting to ascertain the defendant's identity, officers saw a Maryland Driver's License with the defendant's photograph and the name "George Davis." The officers also saw in the hotel room a Dell laptop computer; a Hewlett-Packard printer; blank counterfeit commercial checks; payroll checks from Bell Laboratory Inc. made out to numerous payees; blank check refill paper; and check making computer software. The officers arrested Davis and transported him to the Egg Harbor Township Police Department, according to the complaint.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Simandle 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, was 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.

Marra credited Special Agents with the U.S. Secret Service's Atlantic City Resident Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Robert Slama in Philadelphia, and Police Officers with the Egg Harbor Township Police Department, under the direction of Chief Blave Catania, with investigation of the case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen Harberg, Jr., in the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Christopher O'Malley, Esq. Assistant Federal Public Defender