

NEWS

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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maplewood Man Charged with Immigration Fraud

(More)

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NEWARK – A federal grand jury today indicted a Maplewood man on 16 counts of immigration fraud, mail fraud and making false statements to a government entity, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

The Indictment charges Hubert Dorcant, 44, the owner of Helping Hands Services in West Orange, with eight counts of filing false and fraudulent documents with the Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) on behalf of various aliens.

Helping Hands Services purportedly was in the business of assisting aliens who were seeking to become legal residents of the United States. In several documents filed with CIS, Dorcant claimed that the aliens were entitled to legalization in the U.S. under the Legal Immigration Family Equity Act. That law allows eligible aliens to apply for permanent residency if they illegally entered the United States after Jan. 1, 1982 and remained in the United States, except for brief absences, from at least 1982 through 1987.

The Indictment charges that Dorcant knew his clients failed to satisfy the criteria for eligibility, and nonetheless filed applications with CIS claiming that they did.

The Indictment also charges Dorcant with engaging in a scheme to defraud the aliens he was hired to assist. As part of the scheme to defraud, the Indictment alleges that Dorcant, who misrepresented himself as a lawyer, promised the aliens that he would obtain legal residency in the United States for them, and also assured them that they were eligible under the law to apply for legalization. In return, Dorcant charged the aliens excessive fees from \$2,000 to as high as \$18,500.

If convicted, Dorcant faces a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years on the mail fraud counts, a maximum term of 15 years on the immigration fraud counts, and a maximum term of 5 years on the false statement counts. He also faces the potential for imposition of a \$250,000 fine.

Despite Indictment, Dorcant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins, with the investigation of Dorcant.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Maureen Nakly of the U.S. Attorney's Government Fraud Unit in Newark, New Jersey.

Defense counsel: Cathy L. Waldor, Esq., Manasquan

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