



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**OPERATOR OF PHONY COLLECTION AGENCY ARRESTED FOR  
BOGUS "BOUNCED-CHECK" COLLECTION SCAM**

*U.S. Attorney's Office Provides Victim Assistance Information*

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and RONALD J. VERROCHIO, Inspector-in-Charge of the New York Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"), announced the arrest yesterday of WILLIAM TROPER on charges that he ran a mass-mail scam that targeted hundreds of individuals throughout the United States. The defendant allegedly told victims of his scheme they had written bad checks or owed money and got a number of them to pay a purported collection agency in order to stave off threatened criminal prosecution. As alleged in the Complaint filed earlier today in Manhattan federal court:

TROPER, using the business name "Check Processing Bureau" ("CPB"), sent notices, typically entitled "Notice of Criminal Check Fraud Recommendation," to hundreds of victims. The notices typically referenced a retailer, such as Sears, True Value, Harry & David, or Sam Goody; listed a "balance" and "total amount due," for example, \$255.00 in one instance; and stated that "Criminal check fraud charges are being formally recommended as a result of your issuance of fraudulent check(s)" and that "A copy of this notice shall be forwarded to your local Prosecutor/District Attorney and become part of your permanent record." The victims had neither bounced checks nor owed money as represented in the notices; nor is CPB a collection agency for the businesses it purported to represent. TROPER ran much of the

scheme through a commercial mail receiving agent in Manhattan which forwarded CPB mail to TROPER in Israel.

TROPER 46, of Tirat Carmel, Israel, is charged with one count of mail fraud and one count of mailing threatening communications. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

TROPER will be presented later today before U.S. Magistrate Judge FRANK MAAS.

Mr. DASSIN thanked the USPIS for its work in this investigation, and said the investigation is continuing.

This prosecution is being handled by the Major Crimes Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney MARCUS A. ASNER is in charge of the prosecution.

If you believe you were a victim of this crime, including a victim entitled to restitution, and you wish to provide information to law enforcement and/or receive notice of future developments in the case or additional information, please contact Wendy Olsen-Clancy, the Victim Witness Coordinator at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, at (866) 874-8900 or [Wendy.Olsen@usdoj.gov](mailto:Wendy.Olsen@usdoj.gov). For additional information, go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nys/victimwitness.html> on the Internet.

Consumers should also be aware that the Federal Trade Commission also enforces the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, which prohibits unfair debt collection practices. The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov) or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. To understand your rights when someone calls you about an alleged debt, see <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre18.shtm>.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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