

Department of Justice

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BUFFALO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ESCAPING FROM HALFWAY HOUSE

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Gary Collins, 30, of Buffalo, N.Y. pleaded guilty before United States Judge Richard J. Arcara to escaping from a halfway house. The charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Melissa Marangola, who is handling the case, stated that in February 2012, the defendant was living at the Buffalo Halfway House, finishing out the remainder of a 70-month federal sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm. On February 4, 2012, Collins was admitted to the hospital after a reaction to synthetic marijuana. Once released from the hospital, the defendant never returned to custody. On February 10, 2012, the U.S. Marshals Service located him in Jamestown, N.Y.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the U.S. Marshals Service, under the direction of Charles Salina.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 28, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. before Judge Arcara.

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