

Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED IN CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT THEFT OF GOVERNMENT MONEY

BUFFALO, N.Y.--U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Brandon Reynolds, 20, of Buffalo, N.Y., who was convicted of conspiracy to commit theft of government money, was sentenced to 24 months in prison, two years supervised release and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$106,920.54, by U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron J. Mango, who handled the case, stated that between August 29, 2010 and December 7, 2010, the defendant participated in and was the leader of a scheme involving the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Reynolds and others opened various checking accounts at financial institutions with a nominal initial deposit. The defendant and others received starter checks tied to the newly opened accounts, and would use the checks to purchase significant quantities of stamps at USPS branch locations. After the Postal Service processed the checks, they were returned as non-sufficient funds (NSF). After obtaining the stamps, the defendant and others would resell them pawn shops and coin dealers.

During the course of the scheme, the defendant and others made 140 purchases of stamps from various USPS branch locations located in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky, using NSF checks, resulting in a total loss to the USPS of \$106,920.54.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Robert Bethel, Special Agent-in-Charge.

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