

Department of Justice

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SODUS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO HELPING A FEDERAL PRISONER ESCAPE FROM JAIL

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Mathias Smith, 35, of Sodus, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, to concealing an escaped prisoner. The charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer M. Noto, who is handling the case, stated that this case began with the March 31, 2011 escape of federal inmate Joseph Mitchell after his escape from the Monroe County Jail. Mitchell, along with Eddie R. Palmer, sawed through the jail's bars and fled the City of Rochester. The two men were apprehended approximately a week later on April 8, 2011 in Sodus, New York. Mitchell and Palmer had been concealed in a camping trailer located on a residential property in Sodus, New York associated with Smith. The defendant admitted that he provided shelter to Mitchell and also supplied Mitchell with food during his period of escape.

Palmer was convicted of aiding escape in August 2011 and is awaiting sentencing. Charges are still pending against Joseph Mitchell, and he is presumed innocent unless convicted at trial.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Marshal's Service, under the direction of Charles Salina, and Investigators of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn.

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 19, at 3:00 p.m. EST, in Rochester, N.Y., before Judge Larimer.