

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 4, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Easy Moon, Inc., a California corporation with businesses in San Diego County, pled guilty yesterday in federal court in San Diego to a charge of Operating an Unlicensed Money Transmitting Business, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1960.

18 U.S.C. Section 1960 is a statute designed to provide the government with more control over monetary transactions. It requires that financial institutions, which can include check cashers and other money exchange operations, be properly licensed by either the State of California, the federal government, or, in some cases, both. According to court documents, Easy Moon, Inc. operated convenience stores in San Diego County that offered various money services, including check-cashing, wire transfers, and the issuance of money orders. Easy Moon, Inc., therefore, operated “financial institutions,” which were required to be licensed by the U.S. Department of Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). Easy Moon

did not have such licenses. As part of the plea, the corporation also agreed to forfeit monies seized in the course of the investigation.

This is the first such charge brought in the Southern District of California.

DEFENDANT

Case No. 08cr2959

Easy Moon, Inc.

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1960 – Unlicensed Money Transmitting Business

Maximum penalties: 5 years' incarceration; 2-3 years' supervised release; \$100 penalty assessment; \$250,000 fine

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

Federal Bureau of Investigation