



U.S. Department of Justice

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NAPERVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR BANKRUPTCY FRAUD

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and ROBERT D. GRANT, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

This afternoon, in federal court in Rockford, JOSEPH R. PERSFULL, 47, of Naperville, Illinois, was sentenced to serve 30 months in prison for his conviction for bankruptcy fraud. The court also sentenced Persfull to serve two years of supervised release following his imprisonment, and ordered him to pay a fine of \$6,000.00.

After a six day trial that ended on September 28, 2009, a federal jury returned guilty verdicts against Persfull and his brother, James E. Persfull (of Poplar Grove, Illinois), convicting each of them on one charge of bankruptcy fraud. The indictment alleged that in connection with James E. Persfull's bankruptcy case in 2003 in the United States Bankruptcy Court in Rockford, Joseph Persfull and James Persfull engaged in a scheme to defraud the bankruptcy trustee in connection with the bankruptcy. According to the indictment, Joseph Persfull and James Persfull schemed to conceal information from the Bankruptcy Trustee that their mother had died, that she had a will, and that James E. Persfull had become entitled to a property interest in his mother's estate. The indictment further alleged that Joseph Persfull and James Persfull performed the scheme through the use of sham documents, a "Disclaimer of Inheritance" and a "Declination of Office," in which James Persfull pretended to forego his interest in his mother's estate, when in fact, he received his entire inheritance.

James E. Persfull was also convicted of other charges and is scheduled to be sentenced on March 19, 2010.

The case was investigated by the Rockford office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael D. Love and Scott A. Verseman.

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