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STEVENS POINT MAN CHARGED WITH MAIL FRAUD

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Daniel H. Weiler, 43, of Stevens Point, Wis., was charged today in a one count Information with executing a mail fraud scheme and defrauding Sony Corporation of approximately \$78,000. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and restitution of approximately \$78,000.

The Information alleges that Weiler was employed as a salesperson and store manager at the Furniture & ApplianceMart in Stevens Point from 1993 through June 2007. In June 2007, Weiler was fired for poor performance.

SHC Direct, located in Downers Grove, Ill., managed a sales incentive program for the Sony Corporation by which salespersons selling eligible products were rewarded with payments in the form of a reloadable debit card. The government alleges that Weiler created and submitted false sales invoices -- totaling \$2,475,268.30 -- from August 2007 through March 2008. These sales invoices falsely represented that Weiler was still employed at the Furniture & ApplianceMart and falsely represented that he was selling Sony products for which he was eligible for sales incentive payments. As a result of the false invoices, Weiler was paid \$78,750 from SHC Direct.

The filing of this charge is the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution of this case is being handled by United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.