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PARKERSBURG MAN RECEIVES MANDATORY SENTENCE FOR IDENTITY THEFT

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – John Shilling, 29, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, was sentenced to prison today by United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston for aggravated identity theft. Shilling received a two year prison term, the mandatory sentence required by federal law for aggravated identity theft. He also was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,345.21, the amount owed to the victim in this case.

According to court documents, Shilling gained access to identification information from a victim living in Athens, Ohio in February 2008. Using the victim's name, social security number and other personal information, Shilling applied for and received a Discover card. After having the credit card mailed to his Parkersburg residence, Shilling activated the card. Shilling also added himself as an "authorized user" to a second Discover card, which was also mailed to his residence in Parkersburg. Once activated, Shilling charged over \$3,000 to the victim's accounts over the course of four days.

The United States Postal Inspection Service conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Erik S. Goes handled the investigation.

This case is being prosecuted as a part of the United States Attorney's identity theft initiative.

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