

NR/MCM:ELM
F.#2018R01268

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- against -

WILLIAM JACOBSEN
also known as "Billy," and
MARTA MEDVEDEVA,

Defendants.

TO BE FILED UNDER SEAL

19-M-57

COMPLAINT AND AFFIDAVIT
IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR
ARREST WARRANTS AND SEARCH
WARRANTS

(T. 18, U.S.C. §§ 2, 371)

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOR A SEARCH WARRANT FOR:

THE PREMISES KNOWN AND
DESCRIBED AS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK [REDACTED] AND
ANY CLOSED AND LOCKED
CONTAINERS AND COMPARTMENTS
AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES FOUND
THEREIN

MICHAEL BUSCEMI, being duly sworn, deposes and states that he is a
Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the "FBI"), duly appointed
according to law and acting as such.

In or about and between November 2016 and January 2019, both dates being
approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the

defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, together with others, did knowingly and willfully conspire to, and aid and abet others to commit offenses against the United States, to wit:

(a) to enter into sham marriages for the purpose of evading a provision of the immigration laws, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1325(c); and

(b) to knowingly subscribe as true, under penalty of perjury under Title 28, United States Code, Section 1746, one or more false statements with respect to material facts, in one or more applications, affidavits and other documents required by the immigration laws and regulations prescribed thereunder, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1546(a).

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2 and 371.)

Upon information and belief, there is probable cause to believe that there is currently concealed in the premises known and described as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Brooklyn, New York [REDACTED] (the “SUBJECT PREMISES”), and any closed and locked containers and compartments and electronic devices found therein, further described in Attachment A, the things described in Attachment B, all of which constitute evidence, fruits and instrumentalities of crimes including, violations of 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 371 and 1546.

The source of your deponent’s information and the grounds for his belief are as follows:

1. I have been employed as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the "FBI") for approximately four years. I am currently assigned to the Public Corruption Squad. During my tenure with the FBI, I have participated in numerous investigations involving fraud and corruption, and have participated in all aspects of investigations, including conducting surveillance, executing search warrants, debriefing defendants and informants, interviewing witnesses, and reviewing and analyzing documents. Through my training, education and experience, I have become familiar with the efforts of persons involved in illegal activity to avoid detection by law enforcement.

2. I am familiar with the facts and circumstances set forth below from: (a) my participation in the investigation; (b) my review of the investigative file and reports of other law enforcement officers involved in the investigation; and (c) my review of immigration petitions, bank records, surveillance footage, consensually recorded communications, communications that were lawfully intercepted and monitored by law enforcement and other sources of information.

3. This affidavit is intended to show only that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrants and does not set forth all my knowledge about this matter. Except as explicitly set forth below, I have not distinguished in this affidavit between facts of which I have personal knowledge and facts of which I have learned from other law enforcement agents. Where the contents of documents and the actions, statements and conversations of others are reported herein, they are reported in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

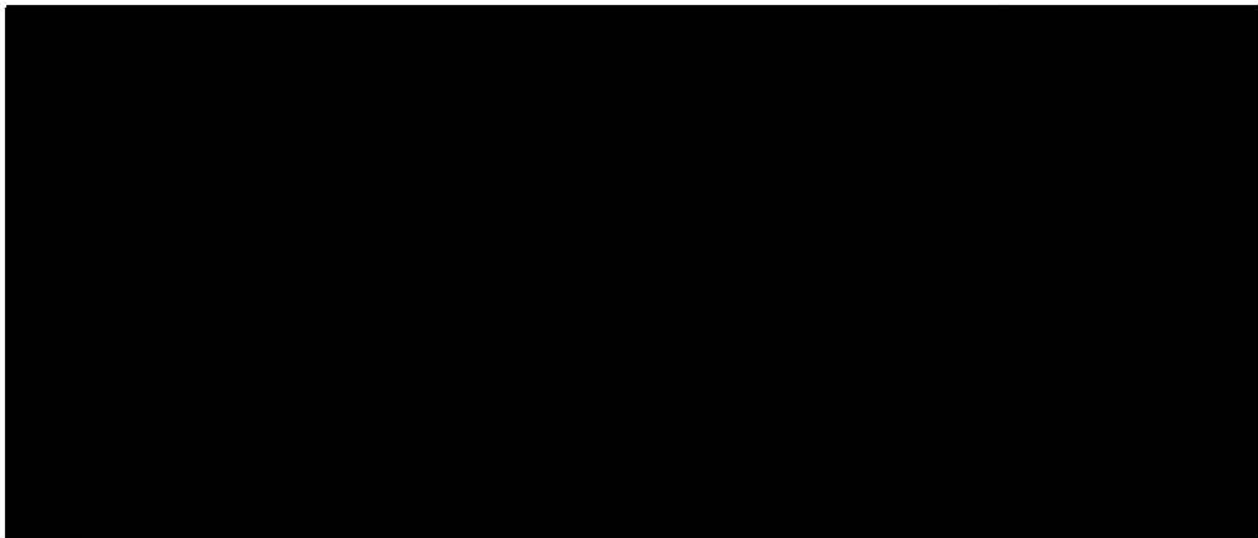
I. The Defendants

4. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” is a natural-born American citizen who resides in Brooklyn, New York, and is 60 years old.

5. The defendant MARTA MEDVEDEVA, is a natural-born Ukrainian citizen and a naturalized American citizen. MEDVEDEVA attained her American citizenship on or about September 20, 2014, as a result of her marriage to WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” on or about February 19, 2008.

II. The SUBJECT PREMISES

6. The SUBJECT PREMISES is an apartment located at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Brooklyn, New York. The SUBJECT PREMISES is located inside of a four-story, multi-unit brick residential apartment building. The SUBJECT PREMISES is accessed through a mauve door bearing the signage “4F” and a brass peephole. The subject premises is pictured below:



7. The SUBJECT PREMISES is the primary residence of the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy.” A review of surveillance footage taken from the hallway outside of the SUBJECT PREMISES shows that JACOBSEN spends nearly every night at the SUBJECT PREMISES and is the sole occupant of the apartment.

8. The investigation has revealed that the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” also uses the SUBJECT PREMISES as the base of operations for the immigration and marriage fraud conspiracy described in detail below.

II. Relevant Background Regarding Petitions for Lawful Permanent Residency for Spouses of United States Citizens

9. Based on my training, experience, and the investigation thus far, I understand the following regarding petitions for lawful permanent residence within the United States:

10. Individuals who are not United States citizens (hereinafter referred to as “foreign nationals”) and who are immediate relatives of United States citizens can obtain a Lawful Permanent Resident Card, – commonly and hereinafter referred to as a “Green Card,” if they meet certain eligibility requirements. For the purposes of obtaining a Green Card, the term “immediate relative” refers to, among other familial relationships, the spouse of a United States citizen.

11. Where a foreign national is already lawfully within the United States, he or she must file an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (“Form I-485”) with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) in order to obtain a Green Card based upon his or her status as a spouse of a United States citizen.

Additionally, the foreign national's United States citizen spouse must file a Petition for Alien Relative ("Form I-130") filed on behalf of the foreign national spouse. The foreign national must also file a Supplemental Information for Spouse Beneficiary form ("Form I-130A") and submit it in connection with the Form I-130 filed by his or her spouse. The signatories of each of these forms certify, under penalty of perjury, that he or she provided the information contained in and submitted with the form, and that all that information is complete, true and correct.

12. All foreign nationals seeking an adjustment of status through the filing of Form I-485 must be interviewed by a USCIS officer unless the interview is waived by USCIS. Where the application is based upon a foreign national's marriage to a United States citizen, both the foreign national and his or her United States citizen spouse must appear for the interview with USCIS. During the interview, the USCIS officer: (i) verifies that the information provided by both spouses of Forms I-485, I-130 and I-130A is accurate, (ii) provides the applicant and his or her spouse with the opportunity to revise any answers that were incorrect or have changed since the filing of the application, (iii) asks the spouses to resolve any unanswered questions or incomplete answers, and (iv) asks the spouses questions designed to determine whether the marriage is real or fraudulent.

13. In some cases, a foreign national seeking an adjustment of status is required to demonstrate that he or she is unlikely to rely on the United States government for financial support. In those cases, an individual known as a "sponsor" files an Affidavit of Support Under Section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "INA") ("Form I-

864”) on behalf of a foreign national and in support of that foreign national’s application for lawful permanent residency. A sponsor files a Form I-864 in order to demonstrate that the sponsored immigrant will have adequate financial support and is not likely to rely financially on the United States government. The signatory of a Form I-864 certifies, under penalty of perjury, that he or she provided the information contained in and submitted with the form, and that all that information is complete, true and correct.

14. Certain foreign national spouses of United States citizens may qualify for naturalization. In order to qualify for United States citizenship through marriage, a foreign national must have been a Green Card holder for at least three years, have been living with in marital union with the same United States citizen spouse during that time, and meet all other eligibility requirements under the INA.

III. The Fraudulent Scheme

A. General Information

15. In or about and between November 2016 and January 2019, the defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, together with others, have been leading a marriage fraud ring in Brooklyn, New York and elsewhere. As the leaders of the ring, JACOBSEN and MEDVEDEVA identify United States citizens who are willing to enter into sham marriages (hereinafter referred to as the “Citizen Spouses” or “Citizen Spouse”) with foreign nationals and provide support in connection with fraudulent applications for lawful permanent residency on behalf of those foreign nationals. JACOBSEN and MEDVEDEVA match the Citizen Spouses with foreign

nationals who wish to attain lawful permanent residency (hereinafter “Foreign National Spouses” or “Foreign National Spouse”).

16. In addition to facilitating fraudulent marriages between Citizen Spouses with Foreign National Spouses, defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, identify individuals who are willing to file Forms I-864, attesting that they will provide Foreign National Spouses with financial support (hereinafter “Sponsors” or “Sponsor”).

17. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” further supports these sham marriages by providing guidance to Citizen Spouses, Foreign National Spouses and Sponsors in connection with their filing of Forms I-485, I-130, I-130A and I-864 and supporting documents with USCIS, and coaching Citizen Spouses and Foreign National Spouses in anticipation of their interviews with USCIS.

18. The Foreign National Spouses pay defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, for their assistance. JACOBSEN and MEDVEDEVA pass on part of that payment to their co-conspirator Citizen Spouses.

B. Interception of WILLIAM JACOBSEN’s Wire and Electronic Communications

19. On November 2, 2018, the Honorable Robert W. Sweet, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, signed an order authorizing the interception of certain wire and electronic communications occurring over a telephone associated with and used by the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN (the “JACOBSEN Facility”) for a period of thirty days (the “November 2 Order”).

20. On December 4, 2018, the Honorable J. Paul Oetken, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, signed an order reauthorizing the interception of certain wire and electronic communications occurring over the JACOBSEN Facility for a period of thirty days (the “December 4 Order”).

21. On January 4, 2019, the Honorable Vernon S. Broderick, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, signed an order reauthorizing the interception of certain wire and electronic communications occurring over the JACOBSEN Facility for a period of thirty days (the “January 3 Order,” and together with the November 2 Order and the December 4 Order, the “Interception Orders”).

C. The Defendants’ Efforts to Arrange Fraudulent Marriages

i. The Defendants’ Communications Concerning Fraudulent Marriages

22. Pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement intercepted multiple conversations between the defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, regarding the fraudulent scheme.¹ For example, on November 5, 2018, law enforcement intercepted an outgoing call from the defendant

¹ Although the defendant MARTA MEDVEDEVA is the wife of the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and some communications between them may be privileged, based on the investigation thus far, and specifically based on the contents of the excerpted telephone call, as well as others, it is the government’s position that JACOBSEN’s and MEDVEDEVA’s discussion of their continuing criminal coordination of sham marriages (which facilitate violations of federal immigrations laws) excerpted above, is not subject to spousal privilege; rather this discussion is excepted from the privilege because they were discussing ongoing criminal conduct in which both spouses are engaged.

WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” using the JACOBSEN Facility to a phone number subscribed to by the defendant MARTA MEDVEDEVA (the “MEDVEDEVA Facility”). During the conversation, JACOBSEN and MEDVEDEVA discussed recruiting individuals to participate in sham marriages. A portion of the conversation is excerpted as follows:²

MEDVEDEVA: Waiting. Listen, he is waiting--

JACOBSEN: [Overlap] Me too. What you want me to do? He already knows I’m pretty sure Nicole got ahold of him today. Why don’t we just wait, see what happens because he mentioned I gave, now I’m waiting for his information on her. I told about the three transcript he needs you, needs to get. All her documents, birth certificate, all updated. Has she been married, divorce papers . . . but she’s never been married. So let’s wait . . . and the picture! I kept on asking for the picture first.

MEDVEDEVA: Michael has her [unintelligible “UI”]. She did this and he don’t know what he has to do.

JACOBSEN: [Overlap] No. She asked for information. No Michael.

MEDVEDEVA: What information she has to know?

JACOBSEN: How long they stay together. About three. I already gave the information.

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: Oh [UI] the 18th. He said they’re on the 18th.

MEDVEDEVA: What 18th? Who?

² Transcripts of excerpted calls are in draft form and subject to revision.

JACOBSEN: [Overlap] Mina.
MEDVEDEVA: What about Sofia?
JACOBSEN: Who's Sofia?
MEDVEDEVA: The girl [UI] Sofia.
JACOBSEN: Oh so [UI] I did the 18th.
MEDVEDEVA: Ah. She wedding 18?
JACOBSEN: Yeah. The 18th.
* * * * *
MEDVEDEVA: Who is Georgio?
JACOBSEN: The one to get married. The one that they didn't pay US.
MEDVEDEVA: Who has dates very soon? Who has interview very soon?
JACOBSEN: Paul.
MEDVEDEVA: Paul . . . this is . . . this is
JACOBSEN: I know.
MEDVEDEVA: You can say it.
JACOBSEN: Uhhh.
MEDVEDEVA: That's nobody.
JACOBSEN: There's a kid in Staten Island that's still going. There's Foron [phonetic spelling]. Anybody else? Paul um . . . we don't count that. Uh. Chris and Alena.
MEDVEDEVA: What happened?
JACOBSEN: They're waiting. Who else? Who else? James and Arina.
MEDVEDEVA: [Laughs] James and Arina take long time.
JACOBSEN: Anybody else? Wova and Kina.

MEDVEDEVA: Wova and Kina [UI] have their papers. They don't have their papers . . . why you counting? What about Michael and the Uzbek woman?

JACOBSEN: Michael? And Uzbek?

MEDVEDEVA: Yes. His name is Michael.

JACOBSEN: Which Michael?

MEDVEDEVA: Michael and Uzbek woman. You like him. Making with her.

JACOBSEN: I have a lot of them. Oh you mean the [UI]

MEDVEDEVA: [UI] Michael.

JACOBSEN: Was that Mike? Ohh. Mario. Oh. yeah. Oh he's upset because she's getting her kids here. She went through the school or something to a job. And they getting the kids here. He's bothering her for money. He threatened her. He's going to immigration. He's doing this. He's doing that. Mario don't want to be bothered with [UI]. Had a fight. Had a fist fight. Mario beat him up. He's a real piece of shit. He needs money. He needs rent money. She's been paying his rent. Been giving him money. Stupid. Now she kept coming crying crying crying . . . and crying. [UI] go fucking tough. [Laughs].

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: I kinda knew he was stupid when I first met him. [UI] thought he was a nut job.

MEDVEDEVA: If you don't like, why you marry?

JACOBSEN: [UI] Need the money . . . she shouldn't have kids here. [UI] a Green Card but she did her kids. That's what she wanted anyway.

MEDVEDEVA: [UI]

JACOBSEN: I don't know. I talked to her a couple months ago. She was happy. Then she called a month after that. [UI] He bugged her for money every month.

23. Based on my training and experience, and the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that the defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, were discussing the status of the various individuals who have been recruited to participate in sham marriages, as well as the status of those individuals who have entered into respective sham marriages and are awaiting an interview with immigration so that the Foreign National Spouse can receive a Green Card and legal permanent residency in the United States.

24. In addition, during a January 17, 2019, telephone call that was intercepted pursuant to the Interception Orders, the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," told the defendant MARTAMEDVEDEVA, that he was reviewing a new website with "information about marriage and immigration" on his desktop computer.

a. WILLIAM JACOBSEN's Efforts to Recruit the Confidential Source as a Citizen Spouse

25. On or about October 3, 2018, a confidential source (the "CS") had a meeting with the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," at the SUBJECT PREMISES (the "October 3 Meeting").³ During the meeting, the CS was introduced to

³ The CS is a paid informant who has been working with the FBI for approximately two years. The CS has no known criminal history and his/her information has been corroborated by toll records, business records, public documents, physical surveillance, pole camera footage and consensual recordings.

JACOBSEN by one of JACOBSEN's associates. The CS informed JACOBSEN that he/she was an American citizen who was interested in participating in a sham marriage for money. Prior to the October 3 Meeting, the CS agreed to wear a recording device provided by the FBI to create an audio and video recording of the meeting. Prior to the meeting, FBI agents met with the CS in a predetermined location to provide the CS with a video and audio recording device and a separate audio recording device. FBI agents conducted physical surveillance and observed the CS enter the apartment building where the SUBJECT PREMISES is located. The video footage of the meeting shows the CS entering the SUBJECT PREMISES. Approximately ten minutes after the October 3 Meeting ended, FBI agents met with the CS at a predetermined location where the CS provided FBI agents with the recording device.

26. Based on a review of the recordings, during the meeting, the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," stated, stated in sum and substance that he was involved in a fifteen year conspiracy to arrange fraudulent marriages between American citizens and foreign nationals in order for the foreign nationals to attain legal permanent residency in the United States. Generally, the video recording depicts, among other things, three individuals – including the CS, JACOBSEN and JACOBSEN's associate – sitting in a living room in front of a television set.

27. The CS told the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," that he/she "need[ed] a couple of dollars," and further stated, in sum and substance, that he/she was interested in working with JACOBSEN. JACOBSEN explained, in sum and

substance, to the CS that he had been facilitating fraudulent marriages for the purpose of allowing immigrants to attain legal permanent residency for approximately fifteen years. JACOBSEN further explained how the scheme worked. In sum and substance, JACOBSEN explained that American citizens who entered into the fraudulent marriages (Citizen Spouses) were provided "10," and immigrants (Foreign National Spouses) were charged "30." JACOBSEN further stated, in sum and substance, that, although he normally paid United States citizens \$4,000 at the time of the marriage, the CS would receive \$5,000 because the CS was referred by JACOBSEN's associate.

28. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," also explained, in sum and substance, that the CS would have to provide certain documentation, including a birth certificate or United States passport in order to prove that the CS was an American citizen. JACOBSEN asked the CS if he/she paid income taxes, and the CS explained that he/she paid taxes every year. JACOBSEN told the CS that he/she would also need to provide a "three-year transcript." Based on my training and experience, there is probable cause to believe that JACOBSEN was instructing the CS to provide a summary of his/her tax returns, referred to as a tax transcript, for the three years prior to the date of the marriage.

29. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," further informed the CS that he/she would "need a sponsor" after the CS confirmed that he/she paid taxes on less than \$38,000 in income the previous tax year. JACOBSEN stated that he paid sponsors \$5,000, and added: "Now, I'm getting a lot of sponsors. My wife has partners,

you'll meet her, she's working right now." Based on my training and experience, as well as the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that, when JACOBSEN stated that he was "getting a lot of sponsors," and that his wife (the defendant MARTA MEDVEDEVA) has partners, JACOBSEN was informing the CS that he and MEDVEDEVA could provide CS with a Sponsor who would falsely attest that they ensure the CS's Foreign National Spouse has adequate financial support.

30. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," explained that the CS would meet an immigrant at the SUBJECT PREMISES, where the CS and the immigrant would have the opportunity to ask each other questions, and the CS and the immigrant would subsequently get married. JACOBSEN also explained, in sum and substance, that the CS and his Foreign National Spouse would open a joint bank account and pay bills together prior to getting married. JACOBSEN also asked the CS whether, if the CS were to move forward with the fraudulent marriage, the Foreign National Spouse, could use the CS's address. The CS agreed, and JACOBSEN volunteered to help the CS add the Foreign National Spouse's name to the CS's lease. Based on my training and experience, as well as the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that JACOBSEN was instructing the CS on various steps the CS and the Foreign National Spouse would take in order to make it appear as if they had entered into a legitimate marriage.

31. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," stated that he would train the CS and his spouse for the interview with an immigration officer. JACOBSEN claimed: "I know the system. I know the questions they're gonna ask . . . even

the new questions.” JACOBSEN further stated that he did not think that the CS would need a lawyer for the interview and estimated that the interview would take approximately five minutes to complete. According to JACOBSEN, his knowledge of the immigration interview led many people to seek his services. JACOBSEN stated that the CS’s Foreign National Spouse would pay JACOBSEN for his “service” of facilitating the fraudulent scheme, and then JACOBSEN would pay the CS in turn. JACOBSEN noted that the Foreign National Spouse might choose to pay the CS additional money, but cautioned the CS against threatening the Foreign National Spouse for further payment.

32. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” explained that the CS would have to remain married for approximately three years, or until the Foreign National Spouse attained legal permanent residency. JACOBSEN also stated that after this period, the CS and the Foreign National Spouse would get divorced, with the Foreign National Spouse bearing all expenses for the divorce. JACOBSEN said he could “be with [the CS] for the whole process, straight to the end,” JACOBSEN also noted that he would provide support for “just [the] Green Card—no citizenship,” and went on to state, in sum and substance, “Citizenship, it’s up to you two. Here, it’s just Green Card – no citizenship.”

33. During the October 3 Meeting, the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” also showed the CS a number of photographs in an album and on his cellular telephone, which depicted couples who JACOBSEN, in sum and substance, represented had entered into fraudulent marriages. JACOBSEN showed the CS photographs

of various female immigrants who were seeking to marry American citizens, stating: “They want to get married because they don’t have any documents.” Based on my training, experience and the investigation so far, I believe that when JACOBSEN stated that the female immigrants “want to get married because they don’t have any documents,” JACOBSEN meant that the people depicted in the photographs were undocumented immigrants, and thus in the United States illegally, who wanted to enter into a marriage with a United States citizen in order to gain legal status as a permanent resident and/or citizen.

34. One day after the October 3 Meeting, on October 4, 2018, the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” sent the CS a series of text messages from the telephone number associated with the JACOBSEN Facility. In the texts, JACOBSEN asked the CS for pedigree information, including his first name, age and occupation. JACOBSEN also sent the CS a photograph of a young, Caucasian woman with dark hair, accompanied by messages reading: “Mina 28 years old Russian [sic]” and “A very nice girl[,] decent and honest and a great body.” The next day on October 5, 2018, the CS consensually recorded a telephone conversation with JACOBSEN on the JACOBSEN Facility. During the call, JACOBSEN told the CS that he had sent the CS a photograph of the woman, and said she wanted to “meet you and do an application and get married.” JACOBSEN further stated: “That’s pretty fast, right? That’s how we do it. We like to do it as fast as possible.” JACOBSEN then explained, in sum and substance, that the CS would meet the woman depicted in the photograph, and then the CS would have to provide a number of documents and information, including, a three-year transcript to demonstrate that

the CS would need a Sponsor in support of his spouses' Green Card application, and the CS's birth certificate, social security number and passport.

35. The defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," provided the CS with contact information for Mina Last Name Unknown ("LNU"). The CS arranged to meet Mina LNU on October 16, 2018, at a prearranged location in Manhattan, New York. The CS attended and consensually recorded the meeting.

36. FBI agents conducting physical surveillance of the location observed the meeting, which moved from the prearranged location to the lobby of a nearby hotel. At approximately 12:30 p.m., the CS met a women, whose appearance matched the photograph of "Mina" sent by JACOBSEN to the CS in the October 4, 2018 text messages, at the agreed upon location. A slim, older white women of average height with dyed red hair accompanied "Mina."

37. Based on my review of the recording, two women can be heard speaking during the meeting. One of the women – who identified herself by saying "Hi, I'm Mina, nice to meet you," – sounds younger than the other woman. Mina LNU provided information about her personal background, including that she came to the United States legally. The CS can be heard saying: "I'm not looking to be get married, to be honest." Mina LNU can be heard replying "Good." The CS stated: "I'm looking to make a couple of dollars." The CS and Mina LNU can also be heard discussing "Billy." Mina LNU explained that she only met "Billy" once and she met him through "Billy's" wife. Mina LNU stated that she knows some people in marriages arranged by "Billy," saying, "I know some girls

who did this.” When the CS asked if “everything went smooth,” Mina LNU replied: “With some, yes, and with some I don’t know what happened.” Shortly before the meeting ended, the CS can be heard saying, in sum and substance, that he/she is “still not that comfortable about this because it’s not \$100,000, it’s only \$10,000.” Mina LNU can be heard replying, “Yeah, you need to think about it.”

38. The day after the CS met with Mina LNU, on October 17, 2018, the WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and CS 2 had a telephone conversation on the JACOBSEN Facility. The CS consensually recorded the conversation. The CS asked JACOBSEN: “What’s the next step, if we are both willing to move forward?” JACOBSEN replied, in sum and substance, “I’ll get an application, the next day you’ll get married.”

JACOBSEN and the CS then had the following exchange, in sum and substance:

CS:	Without an [UI] to go to an interview or anything like that?
JACOBSEN:	The interview might take three to six months, but they are backed up, so it might be six months before the interview. It might be eight months, nine months.
CS:	I might get married before the interview, that’s what you’re saying?
JACOBSEN:	You have to get married first. Then, after you’re married, your lawyer will prep up your papers and information and send it to immigration for an interview.
CS:	Ok. Then I go down to immigration?
JACOBSEN:	The hardest part is getting married. The easy part is the interview, because I know the questions

they're gonna ask you. That's why everyone comes here, because they want training. Everybody's looking for training. When I do it, it's a five minute interview. You go with the lawyer, you're in there for an hour, hour and a half. I've been doing it for fifteen years.

CS: What are the chances I might mess up? That's not a concern, right?

JACOBSEN: No, nobody messes up. Even if you did, you get a second chance! But you won't mess up, this is easy. This is the easy part. The hardest part is the marriage, cause both sides are nervous, they have to go there and kiss each other. Interview is nothing, that's the easy part.

b. The Defendants' Efforts to Establish a Sham Marriage for Mina LNU

39. Mina LNU is a foreign national who resides in Manhattan, New York.

Communications intercepted pursuant to the Interception Orders demonstrate that the defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, have continued to attempt to arrange a fraudulent marriage for Mina LNU after she did not move forward with a marriage to the CS.

40. On November 5, 2018, law enforcement intercepted a communication from the telephone number that the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," identified as Mina LNU's phone number in his communications with the CS (the "Mina LNU Facility") to the JACOBSEN Facility. The Mina LNU Facility sent a text message to the JACOBSEN Facility, which read: "So what is happening? It's been 4 mo[n]ths since we met and u [sic] didn't find me anyone . . . I am very surprised."

41. Later that day, at approximately 7:43 p.m., the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," used the JACOBSEN Facility to call the defendant MARTA MEDVEDEVA, on the MEVEDEVA Facility. During the call, JACOBSEN and MEDVEDEVA discussed, among other things, arranging a fraudulent marriage for Mina LNU. During the conversation, JACOBSEN and MEDVEDEVA had the following exchange:

MEDVEDEVA: What about Mina? You said Mina is ready. Mina is ready.

JACOBSEN: Yeah. I don't have the guy. Mina's ready. The other guy I had, I needed all his information and it's not good information that I'm getting from this guy. There's another guy got lost. Alright cause he's going to do a background check. "Background, background, why you gotta do a background? Background, background, background."

MEDVEDEVA: Right

JACOBSEN: So he's probably been arrested so many times. He didn't wanna give me the----

MEDVEDEVA: Nooo. You don't need him. No, no. He's bad. [UI].

JACOBSEN: That's what I'm saying. I don't want to chance. Even though lot of people say he's okay, but uh, nobody me about, you know, [UI] background check you. Whoa. Anyway, see what happens.

42. In the following days, on November 6, 2018 and November 7, 2018, the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," and Mina LNU exchanged a series of text messages. Relevant portions of the messages are excerpted below:

JACOBSEN: Hi Mina[,] sorry for the delay again[.] [M]y wife came back from the Ukraine today[,] she bur[ied] her mom.

JACOBSEN: I will send you a picture[,] I have a guy[,] very decent respectable family friend[.] [H]e is from Florida.”

JACOBSEN: [Potential Citizen Spouse’s Full Name][.] Works full-time[,] never married[,] no kids[,] a good head on his shoulder He is 32 years old [and] lives in Florida.

MINA LNU: Each time you send me different guy! What happen[ed] to [the] one from last time??

43. Later that day, Mina LNU sent a message indicating that she did not like how the man proposed by the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” looked. JACOBSEN explained that he “canceled” the last man he had proposed to Mina LNU after performing a background check and learning the man had two arrests for domestic violence. Mina LNU replied: “Ok so before you send me them check them . . . there is not point of sending me if u [sic] didn’t check.” JACOBSEN verified that he had already vetted the individual he had recently proposed.

44. On November 17, 2018, pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement intercepted an outgoing call from the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” using the Jacobsen Facility to call the defendant MARTA MEDVEDEVA, on the MEDVEDEVA Facility. They discussed Mina LNU. JACOBSEN informed MEDVEDEVA that MINA LNU was “interested in the guy from Florida.” MEDVEDEVA inquired as to why “Mina’s guy” was “taking a long time,” and JACOBSEN explained that

another woman was interested in the man from Florida. JACOBSEN described the man from Florida as a “good guy,” who “doesn’t like lying or cheating.”

ii. Fraudulent Marriages Arranged by the Defendants

a. Citizen Spouse 1’s Marriage to Foreign National Spouse One

45. Citizen Spouse 1 is a natural-born American citizen who resides in Brooklyn, New York. Foreign National Spouse 1 is a natural-born Russian citizen who resides in Brooklyn, New York. Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 married on or about November 14, 2016. One of the co-conspirators of the defendants (hereinafter “Co-Conspirator 1”), WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and MARTA MEDVEDEVA witnessed the marriage.

46. Foreign National Spouse 1 and Citizen Spouse 1 filed the appropriate applications and forms in support of Foreign National Spouse 1’s application for a Green Card based upon the marriage. Specifically, Foreign National Spouse 1 filed a Form I-485 and a Form I-130A on or about May 12, 2017. Citizen Spouse 1 filed a Form I-130 in support of Foreign National Spouse 1’s application on or about May 12, 2017.

47. As a result of Foreign National Spouse 1’s application for a Green Card, he/she and Citizen Spouse 1 were scheduled to be interviewed by USCIS on November 27, 2018 (the “November 27 Interview”). Approximately two weeks before the scheduled interview, on November 13, 2018, and pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement officers intercepted a telephone call to the JACOBSEN Facility from a telephone number subscribed to by Co-Conspirator 1 (the “Co-Conspirator 1 Facility”). During the call,

defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," and Co-Conspirator 1 discussed the November 27 Interview. Relevant portions of the conversation are excerpted below:

JACOBSEN: Hi [Co-Conspirator 1].

CO-CONSPIRATOR 1: Hi Billy, how's it going?

JACOBSEN: For some reason [Citizen Spouse 1's First Name] didn't want to give me your number for days, and he didn't want to give me [Foreign National Spouse 1's First Name]'s number for days, but I already had her number, but when I call it, it just keeps ringin'.

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: Um, they have an interview tomorrow, right?

CO-CONSPIRATOR 1: Uh no, it's been rescheduled for November—

JACOBSEN: [interrupting] It was? Because I don't really believe [Citizen Spouse 1's First Name] what [he/she] tells me, so uh . . .

CO-CONSPIRATOR 1: Yeah, unfortunately it's been rescheduled for November 27.

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: She still needs training, this is why I was arguing with [Citizen Spouse 1's First Name] for almost days. She needs to come more.

CO-CONSPIRATOR 1: Uh, no, she's been training for a long time already.

JACOBSEN: [interrupting] Yeah, but there's more, I have to make them nervous. This time, this is where I make both of them nervous. I wanna say, "Hey this is a fake marriage, this is what I believe and tell me the truth," you know, stuff like that, that's what I do with everybody.

CO-CONSPIRATOR 1: Oh my God, we shouldn't even be talking about it over the phone, you know?

48. Based on my training and experience, as well as the investigation so far, the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," was informing Co-Conspirator 1 of the importance of preparing participants in fraudulent marriages for their interviews with immigration officials. Specifically, JACOBSEN was discussing the need for Foreign National Spouse 1 to be prepared – or "trained" – for his/her upcoming interview with immigration officials, in order for her to make it appear as if Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 were in a legitimate marriage.

49. Footage taken by a surveillance camera from the hallway outside of the entrance to the SUBJECT PREMISES showed that Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 arrived at JACOBSEN's apartment – the SUBJECT PREMISES – at approximately 6:30 p.m. on November 21, 2018, and departed together at approximately 8:21 p.m. that day. Based on the investigation, including communications intercepted pursuant to the Interception Orders, there is probable cause to believe that Foreign National Spouse 1 and Citizen Spouse 1 were meeting with JACOBSEN in order to prepare for the upcoming November 27 Interview.

50. Law enforcement officers conducted surveillance on Citizen Spouse 1's known address, a residential address in Brooklyn, New York, on the morning of November 27, 2018. The surveilling law enforcement officers observed Co-Conspirator 1 arrive at Citizen Spouse 1's address by car at approximately 10:15 a.m. Citizen Spouse 1 got into Co-Conspirator 1's car, and they proceeded to another residential building in Brooklyn, New

York. The surveilling law enforcement officers saw Foreign National Spouse 1 leave the building and get into a car with Citizen Spouse 1 and Co-Conspirator 1.

51. The car and all three passengers proceeded to 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan, New York, where USCIS offices are located. At approximately 11:15 a.m., surveilling agents stationed in the lobby of 26 Federal Plaza observed Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 enter the elevator banks designated to travel to the floors where, among other government agencies, the USCIS offices are located.

52. Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 were inside 26 Federal Plaza for approximately 30 minutes. Surveilling law enforcement officers observed Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 meet Co-Conspirator 1 in his car near the intersection of South West End Avenue and Liberty Street.

53. Law enforcement officers consulted with USCIS immediately upon observing Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 re-enter Co-Conspirator 1's car. USCIS officials confirmed that Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 had appeared for their scheduled interview earlier that day.

54. The USCIS interviewer noted a number of indications that Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 were involved in a fraudulent marriage, including, among other things, that neither party could identify Foreign National Spouse 1's Sponsor. Additionally, Citizen Spouse 1 initially said that he/she and Foreign National Spouse 1 did not have a wedding reception, but corrected him/herself when confronted with a photograph of Foreign National Spouse 1 in formalwear and dancing in a bar.

55. As a result of their responses, I am advised that the interviewing USCIS officer recommended that Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 be referred for a follow-up interview, also referred to as a “Stokes Interview.”⁴ Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 are scheduled to have a Stokes Interview in October 2019.

56. The next day, on November 28, 2018, defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” used the JACOBSEN Facility to call Co-Conspirator 1 on the Co-Conspirator 1 Facility. During the call, which was intercepted by law enforcement officers pursuant to the Interception Orders, JACOBSEN and Co-Conspirator 1 made plans for Co-Conspirator 1 to come to JACOBSEN’s home between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

57. At approximately 5:47 p.m. that same day, Co-Conspirator 1 and Citizen Spouse 1 were captured on a surveillance camera concealed in a public area of the hallway inside the building where the SUBJECT PREMISES is located. The footage shows Co-Conspirator 1 and Citizen Spouse 1 entering the SUBJECT PREMISES and leaving a short while later.

58. At approximately 7:17 p.m., defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” used the JACOBSEN Facility to exchange a series of text messages with

⁴ Based on my training and experience, a Stokes Interview is commonly used to refer to a secondary interview of a couple seeking a Green Card on the basis of their marriage. See Stokes v. Immigration and Naturalization Services, 74 Civ. 1022 (S.D.N.Y. 1976). A Stokes Interview is generally conducted when the USCIS officer who conducted a couple’s initial interview suspects that the couple is engaged in a fraudulent marriage.

the MEDVEDEVA Facility. The messages, which was intercepted by law enforcement officers pursuant to the Interception Orders, read in sum and substance and in part:

JACOBSEN: [Co-Conspirator 1's First Name] gave me a thousand[,] he's giving me another thousand tomorrow for the training.

MEDVEDEVA: You[re] lucky, you[re] rich[.]

59. Based on my training and experience, and on the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that the defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, were discussing payment for JACOBSEN's training of Citizen Spouse 1 and Foreign National Spouse 1 in connection with the November 27, 2018 Interview with USCIS.

b. Citizen Spouse 2's Marriage to Foreign National Spouse 2

60. Citizen Spouse 2 is a natural-born American citizen who resides in Staten Island, New York. Foreign National Spouse 2 is a natural-born foreign citizen who resides in Staten Island, New York. Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 married on or about June 16, 2017.

61. Foreign National Spouse 2 and Citizen Spouse 2 filed the appropriate applications and form in support of Foreign National Spouse 2's application for a Green Card. Specifically, Foreign National Spouse 2 filed a Form I-130A and Citizen Spouse 2 filed a Form I-130 on or about December 15, 2017.

62. As a result of Foreign National Spouse 2's application for a Green Card, he/she and Citizen Spouse 2 were scheduled to be interviewed by USCIS on December

18, 2018 (the "December 18 Interview"). The day before the scheduled interview, on December 17, 2018, and pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement intercepted an incoming call to defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," on the JACOBSEN Facility, from a telephone number subscribed to by Citizen Spouse 2 (the "Citizen Spouse 2 Facility"). During the conversation, JACOBSEN and Citizen Spouse 2 discussed Citizen Spouse 2's participation in a fraudulent marriage, and his/her upcoming interview with immigration officials. Relevant portions of the conversations are excerpted below:

CITIZEN SPOUSE 2: [He/She] is working right now, until 5:30 or 6:00. We have the interview tomorrow.

JACOBSEN: [He/She]'s very nervous, [he/she] shouldn't be but [he/she] should be.

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: You have the interview tomorrow. Have \$6,000 in cash.

CITIZEN SPOUSE 2: \$6,000 in cash? I was wondering what was going to happen, I wanted to ask [him/her] but I wasn't sure if [he/she] would know, [he/she]'s nervous.

JACOBSEN: [He/She] may be interviewed by an agent, not by an officer. Since [he/she] has a removal, [he/she] will have to go to court, but not you. They are not interested in you. The worst that can happen is they kick you out, but I doubt that will happen. I know a guy from Bayridge who was involved in a 100% fake marriage, they were not trained, they got caught and were escorted out. They kept her and deported her; she was using someone else's

passport. This is different because you know [him/her].

* * * * *

CITIZEN SPOUSE 2: I was trying to meet a [guy/girl], my friend's [brother/sister]-in-law, and my friends called me out and said I was already married to this [guy/girl]. I told them I'm not married, and I had to explain the situation to her. How long do I need to be married to this [guy/girl]?

JACOBSEN: Maybe another year.

CITIZEN SPOUSE 2: We've already been married a year and a half.

* * * * *

CITIZEN SPOUSE 2: I will pick [him/her] up from work tonight and stop by you.

JACOBSEN: I want you to be prepared because they may ask [him/her] about the removal, and ask who's idea was it to come, so I want to talk with you about that.

CITIZEN SPOUSE 2: The story will be I will talk about how [he/she] didn't want to tell me about the removal until after I proposed to [him/her]. [He/She] didn't immediately say yes, because [he/she] didn't want me to think [he/she] was using me, so I had to pull it out of [him/her]. I told her I didn't care, I'd go anywhere for [him/her].

63. Footage from a surveillance camera installed in the public hallway near the entrance of the SUBJECT PREMISES revealed that Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 arrived together at the SUBJECT PREMISES at approximately 7:44 p.m. on December 17, 2018, and left together at approximately 10:10 p.m. that same day. Based on the investigation, including communications captured pursuant to the Interception Orders,

I believe that Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 met with the defendant WILLIAM JACSOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” at the SUBJECT PREMISES on December 17, 2018, in order to prepare for their interview with USICS, which was scheduled for the following day.

64. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement learned that Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 appeared for their previously scheduled interview with USCIS on December 18, 2018. The USCIS interviewer believed, based on their answers to various questions, that Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 were involved in a legitimate marriage.

65. Law enforcement officers attempted to conduct surveillance of Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 as they traveled from their interview but were forced to terminate the surveillance after they boarded a city bus bound for Staten Island, New York.

66. On December 18, 2018, law enforcement intercepted an incoming call from defendant MARTA MEDVEDEVA, on the MEDVEDEVA Facility, to defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” on the JACOBSEN Facility. Relevant portions of the conversations are excerpted below:

MEDVEDEVA:	What do you know?
JACOBSEN:	We won't hear anything until later, maybe around 4 o'clock.
MEDVEDEVA:	No, she texted me already and said it was fine and there were only two questions. He is so angry.

JACOBSEN: Why is he angry? Is it because there were only two questions?

MEDVEDEVA: Yes, because he is stupid.

JACOBSEN: We had to do that - we had to cover everything.

MEDVEDEVA: He is really hungry and is screaming at her because she doesn't have any money. He angry that he had to wait such a long time to be asked only two questions.

JACOBSEN: He has to go back [unintelligible] there.

MEDVEDEVA: I am so happy about her.

JACOBSEN: This is why I say: "Just in case!" Just in case! Know everything, this way, that way, up, down. We do this for everybody."

67. Additionally, on December 18, 2018, law enforcement intercepted an incoming call from Citizen Spouse 2 on the Citizen Spouse 2 Facility to defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," on the JACOBSEN FACILITY. They agreed that Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 would come to JACOBSEN's home.

68. On December 18, 2018, law enforcement intercepted a text message exchange between the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," on the JACOBSEN Facility and a telephone number subscribed to by Foreign National Spouse 2 (The "Foreign National Spouse 2 Facility"). Foreign National Spouse 2 confirmed that he/she and Citizen Spouse 2 would come to see JACOBSEN together.

69. Footage taken by a surveillance camera installed in the public hallway near the entrance of the SUBJECT PREMISES revealed that Foreign National Spouse 2 arrived at the SUBJECT PREMISES at approximately 3:15 p.m. on December 18, 2018, and that Citizen Spouse 2 arrived approximately one minute later, at 3:16 p.m. They left together at approximately 10:52 p.m. that same day. Based on the investigation, including communications captured during the current monitoring period, there is probable cause to believe that Citizen Spouse 2 and Foreign National Spouse 2 met with defendant WILLIAM JACSOBSEN, also known as "Billy," at the SUBJECT PREMISES on December 18, 2018, in order to discuss Citizen Spouse 2's and Foreign National Spouse 2's interview with USICS, which took place earlier that day.

c. Citizen Spouse 3's Marriage to Foreign National Spouse 3

70. Citizen Spouse 3 is a natural-born American citizen who resides in Staten Island, New York. Foreign National Spouse 3 is a natural-born foreign citizen who resides in Brooklyn, New York. Citizen Spouse 3 and Foreign National Spouse 3 were married on or about April 20, 2017.

71. Foreign National Spouse 3 and Citizen Spouse 3 filed the appropriate applications and form in support of Foreign National Spouse 3's application for a Green Card. Specifically, Foreign National Spouse 3 filed a Form I-485 and a Form I-130A and Citizen Spouse 3 filed a Form I-130 on or about May 31, 2017.

72. As a result of Foreign National Spouse 3's application for a Green Card, he/she and Citizen Spouse 3 are scheduled to be interviewed by USCIS on January 30, 2019 (the "January 30 Interview").

73. On Saturday, January 5, 2019, pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement intercepted a text message exchange between the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," and a telephone number subscribed to by Foreign National Spouse 3 (the "Foreign National Spouse 3 Facility"). During this exchange, Foreign National Spouse 3 and JACOBSEN planned that Citizen Spouse 3 and Foreign National Spouse 3 would meet with JACOBSEN at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon.

74. Footage taken by a surveillance camera from the hallway outside of the entrance to the SUBJECT PREMISES showed that Foreign National Spouse 3 arrived at JACOBSEN's apartment at approximately 1:39 p.m. on January 5, 2019. Citizen Spouse 3 arrived at approximately 1:48 p.m. Citizen Spouse 3 and Foreign National Spouse 3 departed together at approximately 3:38 p.m. that afternoon. Based on the investigation, including communications intercepted pursuant to the Interception Orders, there is probable cause to believe that Foreign National Spouse 3 and Citizen Spouse 3 were meeting with JACOBSEN at the SUBJECT PREMISES in order to prepare for the upcoming January 30 Interview.

75. On Monday, January 7, 2019, at approximately 8:14 p.m., law enforcement intercepted a call from the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," on the JACOBSEN Facility to Foreign National Spouse 3 on the Foreign National

Spouse 3 Facility. During this call, Foreign National Spouse 3 told JACOBSEN that he/she and Citizen Spouse 3 were scheduled to meet with his/her attorney on Friday, January 11, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. Foreign National Spouse 3 asked if she should meet with JACOBSEN on Tuesday or Wednesday. JACOBSEN agreed, and asked Foreign National 3 to give him a few hours' notice before his/her arrival. Foreign National 3 also asked JACOBSEN to provide "the documents" from JACOBSEN's brother by Friday.

76. The next day, January 8, 2018, at approximately 12:59 p.m., pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement intercepted a call from Foreign National Spouse 3 to the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," on the JACOBSEN Facility. Foreign National Spouse 3 asked JACOBSEN who would be his/her sponsor for his/her Green Card. JACOBSEN explained that his brother was Foreign National Spouse 3's sponsor, and that her husband "[Citizen Spouse 3's first name]" was Foreign National Spouse 3's petitioner. Based on my experience and training, and on the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that JACOBSEN was telling Foreign National Spouse 3 that his brother would serve as his/her Sponsor connection his/her application for lawful permanent residency in the United States. Specifically, JACOBSEN was telling Foreign National Spouse 3 that his brother would fill out a Form I-864 in connection with the Foreign National Spouse 3's petition to receive legal permanent residency.

77. Shortly after concluding that call, the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," used the JACOBSEN Facility to call Foreign National Spouse 3 back. The call was lawfully intercepted pursuant to the Interception Orders.

During the call, JACOBSEN confirmed that he “just gave someone a sponsor last week,” and would provide Foreign National 3 with all of the necessary paperwork he/she would need to provide from his/her sponsor, including paystubs and a birth certificate. Based on my training and experience, and on the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that JACOBSEN was reassuring Foreign National 3 that he had the paperwork required for his brother to serve as his/her Sponsor. Additionally, when JACOBSEN said he “gave someone a sponsor last week,” there is probable cause to believe that he was telling Foreign National Spouse 3 that he had successfully provided foreign nationals with sham Sponsors in support of other fraudulent immigration petitions.

78. On January 8, 2019, pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement lawfully intercepted a telephone call from the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” on the JACOBSEN Facility to a telephone number subscribed to by JACOBSEN’s brother (“Co-Conspirator 2”). During the call, JACOBSEN and Co-Conspirator 2 discussed Foreign National Spouse 3. Co-Conspirator 2 was not sure who Foreign National Spouse 3 was, but agreed to send JACOBSEN two pay stubs and his 2017 taxes. Based on the investigation, law enforcement believes that JACOBSEN and Co-Conspirator 2 were discussing the documentations that JACOBSEN needed Co-Conspirator 2 to provide in connection with his sponsorship of Foreign National Spouse 3s fraudulent immigration petition.

79. Pursuant to the Interception Orders, law enforcement lawfully intercepted a text message exchange between the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also

known as "Billy," on the JACOBSEN Facility and Foreign National Spouse 3 on the Foreign National Spouse 3 Facility. Relevant portions of the text message conversation are excerpted below:

FOREIGN NATIONAL 3: Can we come for training Friday before the lawyer[']s appointment?

FOREIGN NATIONAL 3: So our appt is at 3:30[.]

FOREIGN NATIONAL 3: We will probably have to leave at 2[.]

FOREIGN NATIONAL 3: So can we come in the morning?

JACOBSEN: Yes come around 1[.]

* * * * *

FOREIGN NATIONAL 3: Did you btw get papers from your brother?

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: Your papers will be ready tomorrow he goes back to work tomorrow[.]

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: And if you like you could come tomorrow and pick up sponsor papers[.]

FOREIGN NATIONAL 3: Thank you !

FOREIGN NATIONAL 3: And he is getting pay stubs for 2 months ?

* * * * *

JACOBSEN: And yes my brother's going to give you two months pay stubs[.]

80. Based on my training and experience, and on the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and Foreign National Spouse 3 were coordinating in preparation for Foreign National 3’s and Citizen Spouse 3’s upcoming interview with USCIS and for a related interview they had scheduled with an immigration attorney for 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 11, 2019. Specifically, there is probable cause to believe that that JACOBSEN confirmed that Co-Conspirator 2 would provide Foreign National Spouse 3 with the necessary documents – including two months of pay stubs – required for Co-Conspirator 2 to serve as a Sponsor for Foreign National Spouse 3’s application for a Green Card. Additionally, JACOBSEN and Foreign National Spouse 3 strategized about how to handle questions about a tax document that indicated Citizen Spouse 3 lived at an address in Staten Island that was different from the address of their purported marital home.

81. There is also probable cause to believe that the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” and Foreign National Spouse 3 agreed that Foreign National Spouse 3 and Citizen Spouse 3 would meet with JACOBSEN prior to their meeting with the attorney. A review of surveillance footage from the hallway outside of the entrance to the SUBJECT PREMISES showed that Foreign National Spouse 3 and Citizen Spouse 3 arrived at the SUBJECT PREMISES at approximately 1:06 p.m. on January 11, 2019, and departed together at approximately 1:27 p.m. Based on my training and experience, and the investigation so far, there is probable cause to believe that Foreign National Spouse 3 and

Citizen Spouse 3 met with JACOBSEN so that JACOBSEN could prepare them for their 3:30 p.m. meeting with their immigration attorney.

82. Based on my training and experience – including my participation in this investigation – I have learned that individuals who engage in fraudulent conspiracies like the immigration and marriage fraud conspiracy described herein often keep physical evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of their crimes inside their residences, including, in this case: photographs of people involved in or seeking to participate in a fraudulent marriage; documents identifying people involved in or seeking to participate in or sponsor a fraudulent marriage, such as paystubs, tax records, birth certificates, passports, bank statements, and other documents; wedding paraphernalia; photographs of wedding ceremonies and receptions; cash proceeds related to the fraudulent conspiracy;⁵ ledgers or other records recording payments made or received in furtherance of the conspiracy; and copies of fraudulent immigration applications and supporting documents. I have also learned that such residences will also include evidence of the inhabitants and users of the residence.

83. Additionally, I have learned through training, education and experience that such evidence, fruits and instrumentalities are often stored in locked containers, safes, secret compartments, closets, drawers, above or below ceiling and floor tiles, behind false walls and, when digital in nature, inside locked or lock-able electronic devices (e.g.,

⁵ Based on the investigation, it is my belief that the defendant WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” keeps cash obtained as part of the fraudulent scheme in the SUBJECT PREMISES. For example, on or about January 15, 2019, a telephone call was intercepted pursuant to the Interception Orders, during which call JACOBSEN stated that he had “so much money on [his] table that [his] table is leaning over.”

computers and smart telephones) and in other places intended to avoid detection by other people, including law enforcement.

84. Accordingly, and based on all of the above, I submit that there is probable cause to believe that the SUBJECT PREMISES, and any closed and/or locked containers found therein, will contain evidence, fruits and instrumentalities of the marriage fraud conspiracy, and the SUBJECT PREMISES, and any closed and/or locked containers found therein, will also contain electronic devices that will contain (and will, in and of themselves, constitute) further evidence, fruits and instrumentalities of the conspiracy.

TECHNICAL TERMS

85. Based on my training and experience, I use the following technical terms to convey the following meanings:

(a) IP Address: The Internet Protocol address (or simply “IP address”) is a unique numeric address used by computers on the Internet. An IP address looks like a series of four numbers, each in the range 0-255, separated by periods (e.g., 121.56.97.178). Every computer attached to the Internet must be assigned an IP address so that Internet traffic sent from and directed to that computer may be directed properly from its source to its destination. Most Internet service providers control a range of IP addresses. Some computers have static—that is, long-term—IP addresses, while other computers have dynamic—that is, frequently changed—IP addresses.

(b) Internet: The Internet is a global network of computers and other electronic devices that communicate with each other. Due to the structure of the

Internet, connections between devices on the Internet often cross state and international borders, even when the devices communicating with each other are in the same state.

(c) Storage medium: A storage medium is any physical object upon which computer data can be recorded. Examples include hard disks, RAM, floppy disks, flash memory, CD-ROMs, and other magnetic or optical media.

COMPUTERS, ELECTRONIC STORAGE, AND FORENSIC ANALYSIS

86. As described above and in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to search for certain documents and records that might be found on the SUBJECT PREMISES, in whatever form they are found. One form in which the records might be found is data stored on a computer's hard drive or other storage media. Thus, the warrant applied for would authorize the seizure of electronic storage media or, potentially, the copying of electronically stored information, all under Rule 41(e)(2)(B).

87. *Probable cause.* I submit that if a computer or storage medium is found on the SUBJECT PREMISES, there is probable cause to believe those records will be stored on that computer or storage medium, for at least the following reasons:

(a) Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, I know that computer files or remnants of such files can be recovered months or even years after they have been downloaded onto a storage medium, deleted, or viewed via the Internet. Electronic files downloaded to a storage medium can be stored for years at little or no cost. Even when files have been deleted, they can be recovered months or years later using forensic tools. This is so because when a person "deletes" a file on a computer, the data

contained in the file does not actually disappear; rather, that data remains on the storage medium until it is overwritten by new data.

(b) Therefore, deleted files, or remnants of deleted files, may reside in free space or slack space—that is, in space on the storage medium that is not currently being used by an active file—for long periods of time before they are overwritten. In addition, a computer’s operating system may also keep a record of deleted data in a “swap” or “recovery” file.

(c) Wholly apart from user-generated files, computer storage media—in particular, computers’ internal hard drives—contain electronic evidence of how a computer has been used, what it has been used for, and who has used it. To give a few examples, this forensic evidence can take the form of operating system configurations, artifacts from operating system or application operation, file system data structures, and virtual memory “swap” or paging files. Computer users typically do not erase or delete this evidence, because special software is typically required for that task. However, it is technically possible to delete this information.

(d) Similarly, files that have been viewed via the Internet are sometimes automatically downloaded into a temporary Internet directory or “cache.”

88. *Forensic evidence.* As further described in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to locate not only computer files that might serve as direct evidence of the crimes described on the warrant, but also for forensic electronic evidence that establishes how computers were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when.

There is probable cause to believe that this forensic electronic evidence will be on any storage medium in the SUBJECT PREMISES because:

(e) Data on the storage medium can provide evidence of a file that was once on the storage medium but has since been deleted or edited, or of a deleted portion of a file (such as a paragraph that has been deleted from a word processing file). Virtual memory paging systems can leave traces of information on the storage medium that show what tasks and processes were recently active. Web browsers, e-mail programs, and chat programs store configuration information on the storage medium that can reveal information such as online nicknames and passwords. Operating systems can record additional information, such as the attachment of peripherals, the attachment of USB flash storage devices or other external storage media, and the times the computer was in use. Computer file systems can record information about the dates files were created and the sequence in which they were created, although this information can later be falsified.

(f) As explained herein, information stored within a computer and other electronic storage media may provide crucial evidence of the “who, what, why, when, where, and how” of the criminal conduct under investigation, thus enabling the United States to establish and prove each element or alternatively, to exclude the innocent from further suspicion. In my training and experience, information stored within a computer or storage media (e.g., registry information, communications, images and movies, transactional information, records of session times and durations, internet history, and anti-virus, spyware, and malware detection programs) can indicate who has used or controlled the computer or

storage media. This “user attribution” evidence is analogous to the search for “indicia of occupancy” while executing a search warrant at a residence. The existence or absence of anti-virus, spyware, and malware detection programs may indicate whether the computer was remotely accessed, thus inculcating or exculpating the computer owner. Further, computer and storage media activity can indicate how and when the computer or storage media was accessed or used. For example, as described herein, computers typically contain information that log: computer user account session times and durations, computer activity associated with user accounts, electronic storage media that connected with the computer, and the IP addresses through which the computer accessed networks and the internet. Such information allows investigators to understand the chronological context of computer or electronic storage media access, use, and events relating to the crime under investigation. Additionally, some information stored within a computer or electronic storage media may provide crucial evidence relating to the physical location of other evidence and the suspect. For example, images stored on a computer may both show a particular location and have geolocation information incorporated into its file data. Such file data typically also contains information indicating when the file or image was created. The existence of such image files, along with external device connection logs, may also indicate the presence of additional electronic storage media (e.g., a digital camera or cellular phone with an incorporated camera). The geographic and timeline information described herein may either inculcate or exculpate the computer user. Last, information stored within a computer may provide relevant insight into the computer user’s state of mind as it relates to the offense under investigation. For

example, information within the computer may indicate the owner's motive and intent to commit a crime (e.g., internet searches indicating criminal planning), or consciousness of guilt (e.g., running a "wiping" program to destroy evidence on the computer or password protecting/encrypting such evidence in an effort to conceal it from law enforcement).

(g) A person with appropriate familiarity with how a computer works can, after examining this forensic evidence in its proper context, draw conclusions about how computers were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when.

(h) The process of identifying the exact files, blocks, registry entries, logs, or other forms of forensic evidence on a storage medium that are necessary to draw an accurate conclusion is a dynamic process. While it is possible to specify in advance the records to be sought, computer evidence is not always data that can be merely reviewed by a review team and passed along to investigators. Whether data stored on a computer is evidence may depend on other information stored on the computer and the application of knowledge about how a computer behaves. Therefore, contextual information necessary to understand other evidence also falls within the scope of the warrant.

(i) Further, in finding evidence of how a computer was used, the purpose of its use, who used it, and when, sometimes it is necessary to establish that a particular thing is not present on a storage medium. For example, the presence or absence of counter-forensic programs or anti-virus programs (and associated data) may be relevant to establishing the user's intent.

89. *Necessity of seizing or copying entire computers or storage media.* In most cases, a thorough search of a premises for information that might be stored on storage media often requires the seizure of the physical storage media and later off-site review consistent with the warrant. In lieu of removing storage media from the premises, it is sometimes possible to make an image copy of storage media. Generally speaking, imaging is the taking of a complete electronic picture of the computer's data, including all hidden sectors and deleted files. Either seizure or imaging is often necessary to ensure the accuracy and completeness of data recorded on the storage media, and to prevent the loss of the data either from accidental or intentional destruction. This is true because of the following:

(j) The time required for an examination. As noted above, not all evidence takes the form of documents and files that can be easily viewed on site. Analyzing evidence of how a computer has been used, what it has been used for, and who has used it requires considerable time, and taking that much time on premises could be unreasonable. As explained above, because the warrant calls for forensic electronic evidence, it is exceedingly likely that it will be necessary to thoroughly examine storage media to obtain evidence. Storage media can store a large volume of information. Reviewing that information for things described in the warrant can take weeks or months, depending on the volume of data stored, and would be impractical and invasive to attempt on-site.

(k) Technical requirements. Computers can be configured in several different ways, featuring a variety of different operating systems, application software, and configurations. Therefore, searching them sometimes requires tools or

knowledge that might not be present on the search site. The vast array of computer hardware and software available makes it difficult to know before a search what tools or knowledge will be required to analyze the system and its data on the Premises. However, taking the storage media off-site and reviewing it in a controlled environment will allow its examination with the proper tools and knowledge.

(l) Variety of forms of electronic media. Records sought under this warrant could be stored in a variety of storage media formats that may require off-site reviewing with specialized forensic tools.

90. *Nature of examination.* Based on the foregoing, and consistent with Rule 41(e)(2)(B), the warrant I am applying for would permit seizing, imaging, or otherwise copying storage media that reasonably appear to contain some or all of the evidence described in the warrant, and would authorize a later review of the media or information consistent with the warrant. The later review may require techniques, including but not limited to computer-assisted scans of the entire medium, that might expose many parts of a hard drive to human inspection in order to determine whether it is evidence described by the warrant.

REQUEST FOR SEALING

91. I respectfully request that this Court issue an order sealing, until further order of the Court, all papers submitted in support of this application, including the application, arrest warrants and search warrant. I believe that sealing these documents is necessary because the items and information to be seized are relevant to an ongoing

investigation into the criminal organizations as not all of the targets of this investigation will be arrested or searched at this time. Based upon my training and experience, I have learned that online criminals actively search for law enforcement affidavits and search warrants via the Internet, and disseminate them to other online criminals as they deem appropriate, i.e., post them publicly online through various forums. Premature disclosure of the contents of this affidavit and related documents may have a significant and negative impact on the continuing investigation and may severely jeopardize its effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully requests that warrants be issued for the arrest of the defendants WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as "Billy," and MARTA MEDVEDEVA, so that they may be dealt with according to law. I further respectfully request that a warrant be issued, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41, to search the SUBJECT PREMISES, as further described in Attachment A, and to seize those items set forth in Attachment B, that may constitute evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of violations of 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c), 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 371, 1546.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Buscemi
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to before me
on January 23, 2019

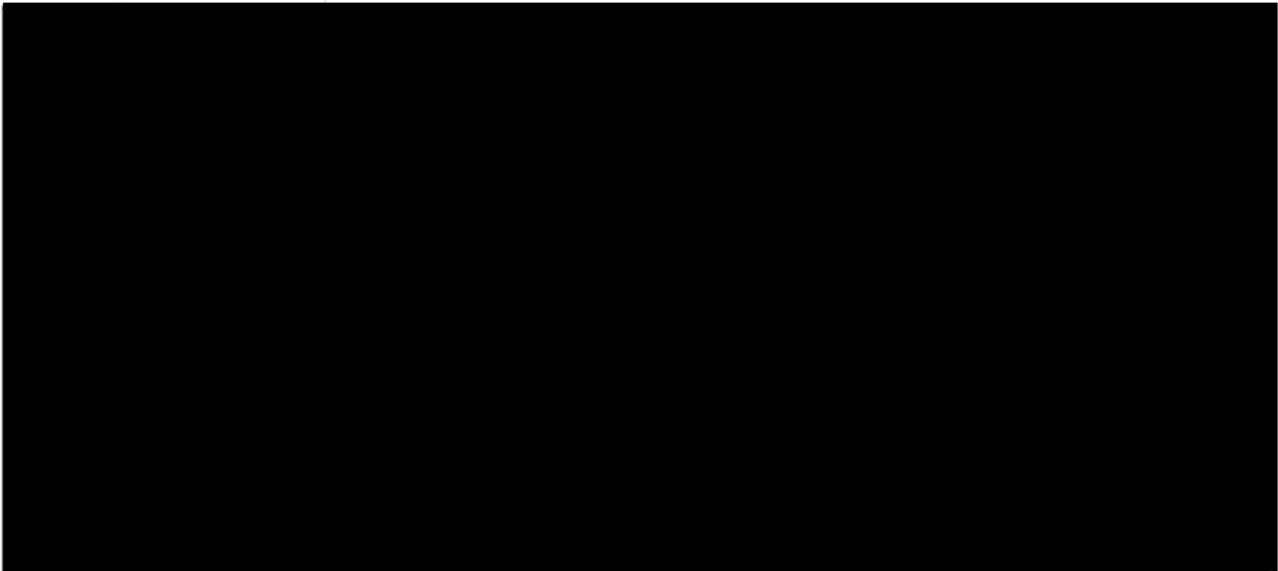


THE HONORABLE LOIS BLOOM
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ATTACHMENT A

Property to be searched

The property to be searched is an apartment located [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Brooklyn, New York [REDACTED] (the "SUBJECT PREMISES"). The SUBJECT PREMISES is located inside of a four-story, multi-unit brick residential apartment building. The SUBJECT PREMISES is accessed through a mauve door bearing the signage "4F" and a brass peephole. The SUBJECT PREMISES is pictured below:



ATTACHMENT B

Property to be seized

1. All items, including documents, records, evidence, fruits and , relating to violations of 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c), 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 371, 1546, those violations involving WILLIAM JACOBSEN, also known as “Billy,” MARTA MEDVEDEVA and their co-conspirators, and occurring after January 1, 2004, including:
 - a. Records and information relating to a conspiracy to defraud United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, including but not limited to copies of immigration-related affidavits, petitions, applications and any supporting documents;
 - b. Records and information relating to the identity or location of individuals previously or currently involved in or seeking to be involved in a fraudulent marriage, or individuals who JACOBSEN and MEDVEDEVA were or are soliciting to enter into a fraudulent marriage, including photographs, birth certificates, passports and other identifying documents, financial records, leases, tax records, Social Security numbers;
 - c. Ledgers, logs and/or other records documenting payments made by or to individuals involved in a fraudulent marriage or who performed services in support of the marriage fraud conspiracy;

- d. Cash, checks, money orders or other financial instruments reflecting the proceeds of the marriage fraud conspiracy;
- e. Keys for lock- or safety deposit boxes and any lockbox or safety deposit box;
- f. Records and information identifying the owners, occupants, users and individuals with access to the SUBJECT PREMISES;
- g. Wedding ceremony and wedding reception paraphernalia, , but not limited to, decorations, photographs and wedding rings.

2. Computers or storage media used as a means to commit the violations described above, including aiding and abetting marriage fraud and marriage fraud conspiracy, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1325(c) and 18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 371, 1546.

3. For any computer or storage medium whose seizure is otherwise authorized by this warrant, and any computer or storage medium that contains or in which is stored records or information that is otherwise called for by this warrant (hereinafter, "COMPUTER"):

- a. evidence of who used, owned, or controlled the COMPUTER at the time the things described in this warrant were created, edited, or deleted, such as logs, registry entries, configuration files, saved usernames and passwords, documents, browsing history, user profiles, email, email contacts, "chat," instant messaging logs, photographs, and correspondence;

- b. evidence of software that would allow others to control the COMPUTER, such as viruses, Trojan horses, and other forms of malicious software, as well as evidence of the presence or absence of security software designed to detect malicious software;
- c. evidence of the lack of such malicious software;
- d. evidence indicating how and when the computer was accessed or used to determine the chronological context of computer access, use, and events relating to crime under investigation and to the computer user;
- e. evidence indicating the computer user's state of mind as it relates to the crime under investigation;
- f. evidence of the attachment to the COMPUTER of other storage devices or similar containers for electronic evidence;
- g. evidence of counter-forensic programs (and associated data) that are designed to eliminate data from the COMPUTER;
- h. evidence of the times the COMPUTER was used;
- i. passwords, encryption keys, and other access devices that may be necessary to access the COMPUTER;

- j. documentation and manuals that may be necessary to access the COMPUTER or to conduct a forensic examination of the COMPUTER;
 - k. records of or information about Internet Protocol addresses used by the COMPUTER;
 - l. records of or information about the COMPUTER's Internet activity, including firewall logs, caches, browser history and cookies, "bookmarked" or "favorite" web pages, search terms that the user entered into any Internet search engine, and records of user-typed web addresses;
 - m. contextual information necessary to understand the evidence described in this attachment.
4. Routers, modems, and network equipment used to connect computers to the Internet.

As used above, the terms "records" and "information" includes all forms of creation or storage, including any form of computer or electronic storage (such as hard disks or other media that can store data); any handmade form (such as writing); any mechanical form (such as printing or typing); and any photographic form (such as microfilm, microfiche, prints, slides, negatives, videotapes, motion pictures, or photocopies).

The term "computer" includes all types of electronic, magnetic, optical, electrochemical, or other high speed data processing devices performing logical, arithmetic,

or storage functions, including desktop computers, notebook computers, mobile phones, tablets, server computers, and network hardware.

The term “storage medium” includes any physical object upon which computer data can be recorded. Examples include hard disks, RAM, floppy disks, flash memory, CD-ROMs, and other magnetic or optical media.