

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

SARAH CAVANAUGH
Defendant

Criminal Case No. 1:22CR79JJM-LDA

PLEA AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A) and (B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States and Defendant, SARAH CAVANAUGH, have reached the following agreement:

1. **Defendant's Obligations.**

a. Defendant will plead guilty to Counts 1 - 4 of the Information, which charges Defendant with:

- Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 1343 - Wire Fraud
- Count 2: 18 U.S.C. § 1028A - Aggravated Identity Theft
- Count 3: 18 U.S.C. § 498 - Use of Forged Military Discharge Certificate
- Count 4: 18 U.S.C. § 704(b) - Fraudulent Use of Military Medals.

b. Defendant further agrees that the time between the filing of this plea agreement and the scheduled date for the change of plea is excludable under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161.

c. Defendant will promptly submit a completed Department of Justice Financial Statement to the U.S. Attorney's Office in a form provided by and as directed

by the U.S. Attorney's Office. Defendant agrees that her financial statement and disclosures will be complete, accurate, and truthful. Defendant expressly authorizes the U.S. Attorney's Office to obtain a credit report on her in order to evaluate her ability to satisfy any restitutionary or other financial obligation that may be imposed by the Court.

d. Defendant agrees that funds in the amount of \$82,489.73, her proceeds from her sale of real estate, will be applied toward her restitution and other financial obligations as determined by the Court. Defendant has provided a \$82,489.73 bank check to the U.S. Attorney's Office. At sentencing, or within a reasonable period of time thereafter, the U.S. Attorney's Office will provide that check to the Clerk of Court for application toward Defendant's financial obligations as ordered by the Court.

Defendant acknowledges that although a final victim loss sum has not yet been determined, it is anticipated that sum - and her final restitution obligation - will exceed \$82,489.73. Should, however, her financial obligation be less than that amount, Defendant agrees that any remainder will be forfeited by the United States as proceeds of her fraud as set forth in Count 1, and Defendant consents to entry of orders of forfeiture for any such remainder and waives the requirements of Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 32.2 and 43(a) concerning notice of forfeiture in the charging instrument, announcement of forfeiture at sentencing, and incorporation of the forfeiture in the judgment.

2. **Government's Obligations.** In exchange for Defendant's pleas of guilty:

a. The government will recommend that the Court impose a term of

imprisonment at the low end of the guideline sentencing range for the offense level determined by the Court under the United States Sentencing Guidelines (the U.S.S.G. or "guidelines") or the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment pursuant to statute, whichever term is greater, but not including probation or a "split-sentence," even if permitted under the guidelines. As required by statute, the mandatory 2-year sentence imposed on Count 2 shall run consecutively to any sentence imposed on Count 1.

b. For purposes of determining the offense level, the government agrees to recommend a two-level reduction in the offense level for acceptance of responsibility under § 3E1.1(a) of the guidelines if Defendant continues to demonstrate acceptance of responsibility through sentencing.

c. As of the date of this agreement, Defendant has timely notified authorities of an intention to enter pleas of guilty. If the offense level is 16 or greater and Defendant enters a plea of guilty pursuant to this agreement, the government will move the sentencing Court for an additional decrease of one level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b)(2), unless Defendant indicates an intention not to enter a plea of guilty, thereby requiring the government to prepare for trial.

d. The government is free to recommend any combination of supervised release, fines, and restitution which it deems appropriate.

3. Defendant understands that the guidelines are not binding on the Court, and that, although the Court must consult the guidelines in fashioning any sentence in this case, the guidelines are only advisory, and the Court may impose any reasonable

sentence in this matter up to the statutory maximum penalties after considering the factors enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

4. The United States and defendant stipulate and agree to the following facts under the guidelines:

- a. U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(b)(1)(G) applies to Count One – the total financial loss incurred by the victims is more than \$250,000 but less than \$550,000;
- b. U.S.S.G. §2B1.1(b)(2)(A)(i) applies to Count One – the offense involved 10 or more victims.

5. Except as expressly provided in the preceding paragraph, there is no agreement as to which Offense Level and Criminal History Category applies in this case. Both the United States and Defendant reserve their rights to argue and present evidence on all matters affecting the guidelines calculation.

6. The maximum statutory penalties for the offenses to which Defendant is pleading guilty are:

Count 1: 18 U.S.C. § 1343 (Wire Fraud): 20 years imprisonment; a fine of \$250,000; a term of supervised release of 3 years; a \$100 special assessment;

Count 2: 18 U.S.C. § 1028A (Aggravated Identity Theft): a mandatory minimum 2 years imprisonment, consecutive to any sentence of imprisonment imposed on Count 1; a \$100 special assessment;

Count 3: 18 U.S.C. § 498 (Use of Forged Military Discharge Certificate) **and**
Count 4: 18 U.S.C. § 704(b) (Fraudulent Use of Military Medals):

On Counts 3 and 4: 1 year imprisonment; a fine of \$100,000; a term of supervised release of 1 year; a \$25 special assessment.

If imposed consecutively, the maximum penalties for all offenses to which Defendant is pleading guilty are 24 years imprisonment; a fine of \$450,000; and a term of supervised release of 3 years. The mandatory special assessments total \$250.

7. Defendant agrees that, after Defendant and Defendant's counsel sign this plea agreement, counsel will return it to the United States Attorney's Office along with a money order or certified check, payable to the Clerk, United States District Court, in payment of the special assessments. Failure to do so, unless the Court has made a previous finding of indigence, will relieve the government of its obligation to recommend a reduction in the offense level under the guidelines for acceptance of responsibility.

8. Defendant is advised and understands that:

- a. The government has the right, in a prosecution for perjury or making a false statement, to use against Defendant any statement that Defendant gives under oath;
- b. Defendant has the right to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea;
- c. Defendant has the right to a jury trial;
- d. Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel – and if necessary have the Court appoint counsel – at trial and every other stage of the proceeding;
- e. Defendant has the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses; and

f. Defendant waives these trial rights if the Court accepts a plea of guilty.

g. Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to her immigration status if she is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable or deportable offenses. Likewise, if Defendant is a naturalized citizen of the United States, pleading guilty may result in denaturalization as well as removal and deportation. Removal, deportation, denaturalization, and other immigration consequences are the subject of separate proceedings, however, and Defendant understands that no one, including her attorney or the district court, can predict with certainty the effect of her conviction on her immigration status. Defendant nevertheless affirms that she wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is her removal or deportation from the United States or her denaturalization.

9. The government reserves its full right of allocution, including the right to present any information to the Court for its consideration in fashioning an appropriate sentence, the right to correct misstatements, misrepresentations, or omissions by Defendant, and to answer any questions asked by the Court.

10. Except for paragraphs 2 and 4, above, the parties have made no agreement concerning the application of the guidelines in this case.

11. Defendant understands that the Court alone makes all sentencing decisions, including the application of the guidelines and the sentence to be imposed. The Court is not bound by the parties' stipulations of fact, offense level adjustments, or the

government's recommendations. The Court is free to impose any sentence it deems appropriate up to and including the statutory maximum. Defendant also understands that even if the Court's guideline determinations and sentence are different than Defendant expects, Defendant will not be allowed to withdraw Defendant's pleas of guilty.

12. Defendant hereby waives Defendant's right to appeal the convictions and sentences imposed by the Court, if the sentences imposed by the Court are within or below the sentencing guideline range determined by the Court. This agreement does not affect the rights or obligations of the United States as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b), and the government retains its right to appeal any of the Court's sentencing determinations.

13. This agreement is binding on the government only if Defendant pleads guilty, fulfills all Defendant's obligations under the agreement, does not engage in any conduct constituting obstruction of justice under § 3C1.1 of the guidelines, and does not commit any new offenses. Defendant understands that if Defendant violates this agreement in any way, the government shall be released from its obligations under the agreement and will be free to make any recommendations that it deems appropriate. If that occurs, Defendant shall not have the right to withdraw Defendant's guilty plea.


14. This agreement is limited to the District of Rhode Island and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecutive authorities.

15. This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. No other promises or inducements have been made concerning the plea in this case.

Defendant acknowledges that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced Defendant to enter this agreement. Any additions, deletions, or modifications to this agreement must be made in writing and signed by all the parties in order to be effective.


16. Counsel for Defendant states that Counsel has read this agreement, been given a copy of it for Counsel's file, explained it to Defendant, and states that to the best of Counsel's knowledge and belief, Defendant understands the agreement.

17. Defendant states that Defendant has read the agreement or has had it read to Defendant, has discussed it with Defendant's Counsel, understands it, and agrees to its provisions.



SARAH CAVANAUGH
Defendant

July 1 2022
Date




KENSLEY BARRETT
Counsel for Defendant

7.1.22
Date



RONALD GENDRON
Assistant U.S. Attorney

July 11, 2022
Date



SANDRA HEBERT
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Chief, Criminal Division

July 11, 2022
Date