



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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CHASE BANK ENCODER CLERK CHARGED WITH STEALING CHECKS & MONEY ORDERS

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of GEORGE A. WILLIAMS, JR., a former Chase bank clerk, for stealing nearly \$6,000, by illegally taking 15 federal government checks and various money orders--including 5 United States Treasury (UST) checks, totaling \$3,924, and 10 United States Postal Service (USPS) and Travelers Express (TE) money orders, totaling \$2041, which had already been negotiated by the payees--and depositing them in his own checking account.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, WILLIAMS was among over 100 check encoder clerks at Chase's 55 Water Street branch, whose job was to record the face amounts of checks and money orders--previously negotiated by their payees and presented to Chase for payment--by keying the data into the bank's computer system.

Commissioner Kuriansky said an investigation began in October 2001, when Chase's Fraud Prevention and Investigation Department (FPID) alerted DOI that WILLIAMS had recently made some suspicious deposits in his own account. Chase first learned of WILLIAMS' scheme when a check cashing company notified bank officials that it had never received reimbursement from Chase for a UST check it had cashed for a customer.

The investigation disclosed that WILLIAMS had fraudulently deposited, between May 22 and July 12, 2001, 5 UST checks, totaling \$3,924, and 2 USPS and 8 TE money orders, totaling \$2,041, in his Chase checking account.

WILLIAMS admitted to DOI investigators that, while working in the Chase check encoding unit, he had removed the 15 negotiable instruments, deposited them into his own account, and spent the proceeds.

WILLIAMS, 30, of 875 Rockland Avenue on Staten Island, was employed by Chase between December 2000 and July 2001, when he resigned, purportedly because Chase had transferred its check encoding function to Carlstadt, New Jersey, and he did not want to commute. He has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D felony. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to JP Morgan Chase's FPID for its assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

Chase Bank Encoder Clerk Charged With Stealing Checks & Money Orders

The investigation was conducted by John McMahon, DOI's Acting Inspector General for TLC, and Special Investigator Tim Crowe.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Zandra Cheung is handling the matter.