

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
71 Monument Park
Freehold, New Jersey 07728
732/ 431-7160
Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

FURNITURE STORE OWNER RECEIVES 5 YEAR STATE PRISON TERM FOR THEFT BY DECEPTION, TAX DELINQUENCY

On June 19, 2009, William C. Neumann, Jr., 62, of Leonardo, N.J., was sentenced to a 5 year State Prison term for the crimes of second degree Theft by Deception and third degree Failure to File State Taxes. As a condition of the sentence, Neumann must pay full restitution of \$297,724.26 to a total of eighty two victims. Neumann must also pay \$9,075.66 in penalties to the New Jersey Division of Taxation.

Neumann pled guilty to the charges on March 9, 2009. Neumann's guilty pleas were accepted by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Ira E. Kreizman, who also imposed sentence.

Neumann was the owner of Cabbage Rose, L.L.C., and Chelsea Manor Unlimited. Cabbage Rose, L.L.C., was a furniture store located in Fair Haven, N.J. Chelsea Manor Unlimited was a business which sold furniture through the Internet. After numerous complaints were received by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, the Fair Haven Police Department and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, a joint investigation was initiated by those three agencies in conjunction with the New Jersey Division of Taxation. The investigation revealed that Neumann received furniture orders and subsequently obtained deposits for merchandise pursuant to generated invoices. The investigation further revealed that from January of 2004 until January 2007, Neumann received payments from customers totaling over \$297,000 and failed to deliver any of the merchandise or submit refunds. Additionally, from 2003 until 2006, Neumann failed to file New Jersey Gross Income Tax Returns.

Neumann also represented to his customers that he was an authorized dealer for several furniture distributors throughout the United States. The investigation further revealed that Neumann was never an authorized dealer for these businesses.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, “Neumann stole a substantial amount of money over a period of approximately three years from innocent consumers who were acting in good faith. This sentence will punish Neumann by sending him to State Prison and will, hopefully, enable the victims to obtain restitution.” Prosecutor Valentin also extended his gratitude for the cooperative efforts of the New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs, the New Jersey Division of Taxation and the Fair Haven Police Department.

The case was assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Barbara N. Suppa. Neumann was represented by Robert J. Konzelman, Esquire, of Howell Township, N.J.

Released: June 22, 2009