

L&PS New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety

Division of Gaming Enforcement

John J. Farmer, Jr., Attorney General

John Peter Suarez, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 7, 2000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Katherine Lyons (609) 777-2403

Man Indicted for Identity Theft and Attempted
Theft by Deception in Bank Cashier's Check Scam

ATLANTIC CITY -- Attorney General John J. Farmer, Jr., today announced the indictment of a man who assumed a false identity as part of a scheme to obtain \$100,000 from two Atlantic City casinos.

The Attorney General said that Benjamin Gillard, 34, was named in a two count State Grand Jury Indictment charging him with one count second-degree Theft of Identity and one count second-degree Attempted Theft by Deception against Tropicana Casino and Resort and Caesars Atlantic City. The indictment was presented by Deputy Attorney General Jill Moyer of the Division of Criminal Justice, Casino Prosecutions Bureau. Gillard's last known address was in Boston, Massachusetts; however, his citizenship has not been established.

According to Paul Zoubek, Director of the Division of Criminal Justice, Benjamin Gillard, under the identity of Kelvin Foster Philips, attempted to cash \$100,000 in cashier's checks at Tropicana and Caesars in November of 1999. However, an investigation by New Jersey State Police assigned to the Division of Gaming Enforcement and Division of Criminal Justice investigators revealed that the \$70,000 cashier's check from an account in Philips' name at Bank of Boston/Fleet Bank and the \$30,000 cashier's check from another account in Philips' name at Citizens Bank in Boston were not negotiable because the funds in the account itself were fraudulently obtained. The defendant, posing as a businessman from Massachusetts, was arrested by State Police Detective Sergeant First Class Gerald Stoll when he tried to negotiate the checks on November 15, 1999, at the Tropicana.

If convicted, Gillard could face up to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison and fines up to \$150,000 for each charge. Gillard remains in Atlantic County jail with bail set at \$50,000; however, Massachusetts authorities have requested he be detained in connection with this matter.

An indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until or unless proven guilty.

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