

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

FURNITURE BUSINESSMAN ADMITS STEALING MORE THAN \$330,000 FROM CUSTOMERS

On March 9, 2009, William C. Neumann, Jr., 62, of the Leonardo section of Middletown Township, N.J., pled guilty to one count of second degree Theft by Deception and one count of third degree Failure to File Taxes during an appearance in Monmouth County Superior Court. Neumann entered his guilty pleas pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. The terms of Neumann's plea agreement, which were reviewed with and approved by Neumann's victims, provide for the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office to recommend that Neumann receive a 7 year New Jersey State Prison term for the Theft by Deception and a concurrent 5 year New Jersey State Prison term for the Failure to File Taxes. Pursuant to the negotiated plea agreement Neumann will be required to pay more than \$330,000 in restitution to his victims.

Neumann's guilty pleas were accepted by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Ira E. Kreizman. Neumann is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Kreizman on June 19, 2009, and he remains free on \$150,000 bail.

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 accepted 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 \$330,000 but failed to deliver any of the

merchandise or submit any refunds. The investigation determined that Neumann defrauded a total of eighty one victims nationwide. 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, "The crimes which Neumann has now admitted his guilt to were the result of a cooperative investigation by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, the Fair Haven Police Department, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Division of Taxation. Working together, eighty one individuals who were victimized by Neumann's criminal conduct were identified. The proposed term of imprisonment is intended to punish Neumann for his actions. The payment of restitution is intended to begin to compensate the many victims for their losses."

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

Released: March 9, 2009