



Department of Justice

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POSTAL EMPLOYEE ADMITS TO STEALING VA PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION FROM THE MAIL

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced that **PHILLIP WILEY**, age 38, of Dexter, N.Y., pled guilty today to the felony offense of Theft of Mail Matter, before the Hon. Frederick J. Scullin in the United States District Court in Syracuse, New York. Sentencing for **WILEY** is scheduled for March 6, 2013. As a result of the conviction, **WILEY** is facing a term of imprisonment of up to five years, supervised release of up to three years, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a special assessment of \$100.

WILEY admitted that while working at the Watertown Post Office, he opened and removed prescription medications mailed from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1709.

WILEY admitted that he stole the VA medicine from packages and envelopes that came through the U.S. Mail to the Watertown Post Office because he had a drug problem. In total, **WILEY** acknowledged stealing 55 pieces of missing mail matter, going back to November 2009.

The investigation of **WILEY** began in 2010, when Special Agents with the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General (“USPSOIG”) and Special Agents with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs received numerous complaints from customers who did not receive medications that were mailed to them by the VA.

This prosecution was handled in the United States Attorney's Office by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tamara B. Thomson. Further information can be directed to the United States Attorney's Office at (315) 448-0672.