



NEWS RELEASE  
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08/06/2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN CONVICTED OF IDENTITY THEFT FOLLOWING  
ARREST FOR DRIVING WHILE REVOKED

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Sean S. Lancaster, 51, of Springfield, Missouri was convicted today by a Greene County Jury of identity theft resulting from an incident that occurred on June 23, 2019. The defendant was found possessing five stolen identifications during a car stop by the Willard Police Department.

The State charged the defendant with the class B felony of trafficking in stolen identities and the class E felony of driving while revoked. Prior to the trial, the defendant entered a guilty plea to count 2, felony driving while revoked. After the presentation of evidence, the jury found Lancaster guilty of the lesser included class B misdemeanor charge of identity theft. The jury deliberated for 2 hours before returning its verdict.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable David Jones. On the charge of identity theft the defendant is subject to a sentence of up to 180 days in the Greene County Jail or a fine not to exceed \$500. On the charge of felony driving while revoked, because the defendant is a prior and persistent felony offender, the defendant is subject to a sentence of up to one year in jail or between two and seven years in the Department of Corrections and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00. Judge Jones set a sentencing hearing for September 24, 2021 at 11:00 am.

The State presented its case with the theory that the defendant possessed five unique means of identification with the intent to transfer those identities to others, so they could be used by others to commit identity theft. All five means of identification, had been stolen months prior to the defendant possessing them. Ultimately the jury found the defendant knowingly possessed the stolen ID's with the intent to deceive, but

Subject: Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release, State v. Lancaster, 1931-CR05564-01

was not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant intended to transfer those ID's to others.

The case illustrates the difficulty in curbing the illegal identity trade in the Springfield area. While possessing a stolen identity, or indeed several identities, is a crime, it is difficult to prove the person's intent to transfer them to others for further criminal activity. While preparing the case, the Prosecuting Attorney's office coordinated with detectives from the Springfield Financial Crimes Unit. Though the Springfield Police detectives did not work on this specific case, their knowledge and insight about the stolen identity trade was invaluable.

A "means of identification" can be driver's license, social security card, student ID, or any other form of ID that uniquely matches an individual. The unfortunate reality is that these stolen ID's are invaluable to criminals. A stolen ID can be used to pass stolen checks, open fraudulent lines of credit, use stolen credit or debit cards, and deceive police by presenting false identities. Detectives from the Springfield Police Financial Crimes Unit estimate that these incidents are underreported in the area, and far too common.

The prosecuting attorney's office advises the public that if they do have a wallet or purse stolen, in addition to canceling your credit or debit cards, please file a police report with law enforcement. Even a missing driver's license could later be used to victimize members of the community.

**This case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Nicholas Bergeon with the assistance of Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Conor Browne. It was investigated by the Willard Police Department and Corporal Billie Deckard was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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