



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

AUGUST 14, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOOKKEEPER PLEADS GUILTY TO FORGING CHECKS TOTALING \$609,995

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to forging checks drawn on her employers' bank accounts.

Kathleen M. Hayes, 44, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to forging her employer's signature on company checks in order to obtain more than \$609,995.71.

By pleading guilty, **Hayes** admitted that as a bookkeeper for Roger's Real Estate Service, Inc., located in Independence, she forged the business owner's signature using a rubber stamp between Dec. 21, 2000, and Oct. 14, 2001, in order to cash checks written to the company. **Hayes** admitted that she cashed the checks or used them to purchase cashier's checks or money orders. In total, **Hayes** forged checks totaling \$533,820.08, from 10 different checking accounts, while employed at Roger's Real Estate Service. She was employed with the company from Dec. 21, 2000, through Oct. 14, 2001.

After leaving Roger's Real Estate Services, **Hayes** obtained employment as a bookkeeper for Intelotech, Inc., d/b/a/ Beyond Bytes, in Independence, in March 2002. As bookkeeper, **Hayes'** employer gave her authority to write checks and use the company's MasterCard and American Express credit cards for business purposes. The company's owner also would often pre-sign blank checks for the use of **Hayes**. By pleading guilty, **Hayes** admitted that she completed those pre-signed checks, making them payable to fraudulent payees. The total loss encountered by Beyond Bytes was \$76,175. **Hayes** admitted that she drafted fraudulent checks at Beyond Bytes between Sept. 12, 2002, to Jan. 22, 2003.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Hayes** may be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$250,000. Her sentence will be determined

according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances Reddis. The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow