



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SPRINGFIELD INSURANCE AGENT SENTENCED FOR BANK THEFT, WIRE FRAUD**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield insurance agent was sentenced in federal court today for bank theft and for defrauding his clients and insurance finance companies.

**Robert Darren Hoelcher**, 30, of Springfield, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to one year and six months in prison on each of two counts, to be served concurrently. The court also ordered **Hoelcher** to pay \$75,660.02 in restitution.

**Hoelcher** was the owner of All Risk Agency in Springfield and worked as an insurance agent. On May 30, 2002, **Hoelcher** pleaded guilty to a federal information charging one count of bank theft and one count of wire fraud.

Count One of the federal information charges **Hoelcher** with stealing \$1,630 from a Springfield bank. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Hoelcher** admitted that he caused a series of checks to be written, knowing those checks would not be paid. **Hoelcher** deposited worthless checks into accounts at three Springfield banks, then made withdrawals from those accounts, knowing there were insufficient funds. In his plea agreement, **Hoelcher** admitted to stealing a total of \$12,183.67 from the banks.

Count Two of the federal information charges **Hoelcher** with wire fraud. By pleading guilty, **Hoelcher** admitted to devising a scheme to obtain money intended for insurance premiums by false and fraudulent pretenses. In his plea agreement, **Hoelcher** admitted that total losses from this fraud totaled \$63,476.35.

Graves explained that, from Sept. 9, 1999 to July 18, 2000, **Hoelcher** falsely represented to finance companies that he had clients who wished to obtain financing in order to purchase insurance policies. In reality, Graves said, there were no clients seeking premium financing.

Nevertheless, **Hoelcher** applied for insurance premium financing on behalf of these fictitious clients, and after obtaining checks from the finance companies, kept the money for his own purposes.

**Hoelcher** also admitted to accepting payment from a client that was intended for an insurance company, but keeping the money for himself instead of paying for the insurance for the client.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)