



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER IRS EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING TAXPAYER'S MONEY ORDER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former employee of the Internal Revenue Service pleaded guilty today to stealing a money order that had been sent to the IRS for payment of taxes.

James G. Ingram, 39, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert E. Larsen this afternoon to a federal information that charges him with theft of public money.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Ingram** admitted that he stole a \$950 Traveler's Express money order that had been sent to the IRS by a taxpayer for payment of taxes. The theft occurred between June 8 and 14, 2001, while **Ingram** was working as a file clerk in the Extraction Unit, Receipt and Control Branch, at the Kansas City, Mo., Service Center of the Internal Revenue Service. In that unit, Graves explained, mail is opened and checks and money orders are separated from the income tax returns. **Ingram** took the taxpayer's money order, Graves said, and filled in his own name in the blank payee line, then endorsed the money order on the back and cashed it, taking the proceeds for his own use.

Graves added that, after being advised by the IRS that his payment wasn't received, the taxpayer obtained a copy of the money order. The taxpayer sent a letter to **Ingram**, confronting him with the theft and demanding reimbursement. At that time, Graves said, the taxpayer wasn't aware that **Ingram** was an IRS employee.

Ingram sent a check to the taxpayer reimbursing him for the stolen \$950 money order. The taxpayer then advised the IRS that the money order had been stolen by **Ingram**, Graves said, and the IRS determined that **Ingram** was an employee at the Kansas City Service Center.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Ingram** could be subject to a sentence of up to one year in prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$100,000. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances Reddis. The case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury.

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