



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO USING FAKE ID IN CHECK FORGERY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to using an altered identification card in the name of another person to negotiate forged checks.

**Richard A. Minnick**, 33, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 20, 2003.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Minnick** admitted that he broke into a vacant house in Independence, Mo., in mid-February 2002, stealing a book of checks, among other things. **Minnick** negotiated 20 forged checks, Graves said, for a total loss to the victim of over \$17,000.

On some checks, Graves explained, **Minnick** rubbed out the correct name and replaced it with his own. On others, he left the correct names and cashed the checks by posing as the victim. He did this, Graves said, by presenting an altered Missouri non-driver's identification card with the victim's name but his own photograph.

On Feb. 27, 2002, Independence police officers arrested **Minnick** after he attempted to negotiate one of the forged checks at Wal-Mart. At that time, Graves said, **Minnick** was in possession of the altered identification card.

Under federal statutes, **Minnick** could be subject to a sentence of up to 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His 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.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was

investigated by the United States Secret Service; the Independence, Mo., Police Department; the Gladstone, Mo., Police Department; and the Raytown, 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)