



Department of Justice

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**SOUTH CAROLINA MAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR
DISTRIBUTING ILLEGAL SATELLITE TV ACCESS DEVICES**

– \$346,000 Fraud

Michael C. Hill, age 53, of Iva, South Carolina, was sentenced to five months in prison followed by five months home detention and order to pay restitution in the amount of \$346,104 to DirecTV as a result of distributing 437 illegal access devices in the Western District of Kentucky and elsewhere throughout the United States which access devices permitted inline users unauthorized, free access to all programming offered by DirecTV including pay-per-view programs, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today.

Hill entered a guilty plea on February 21, 2007 to engaging in a criminal conspiracy with three other defendants including William Charles Rath, a Canadian citizen, who was the ringleader of the scheme. Much of the evidence incriminating the conspirators was seized as a result of a search warrant executed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, with the assistance of the Royal Mounted Police. This evidence indicated that Hill participated with co-defendant Jeffrey Sanders in the distribution of illegal access devices which were manufactured by co-defendant Gregory Chaffin at his plant in Franklin Furnace, Ohio. Chaffin plead guilty to manufacturing and selling these illegal devices, as did co-

defendant, Jeffrey Sanders. Both Chaffin and Sanders were sentenced in October 2006 to one year imprisonment which they are currently serving.

William Charles Rath, the principal defendant and a Canadian citizen, fled the jurisdiction of the Canadian courts in July 2006. While the United States' request for extradition of him was pending, he forfeited a \$100,000 Canadian bond. His current whereabouts are unknown and a warrant for his arrest is outstanding .

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James R. Lesousky, Jr. and was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The sentencing was held before Judge Thomas B. Russell, United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky.

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