

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney
General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information, contact:

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

Suzanne Webb (334) 242-7351

Page 1 of 2

AG ANNOUNCES PRISON SENTENCE FOR MAN IN CONNECTION WITH FORGED LETTER SAYING AG SUPPORTED HIS PARDON

(MONTGOMERY) – A Madison man has been sentenced to prison for crimes that included possession of a forged letter which purported to be from the Attorney General’s Office in support of the man’s pardon for previous crimes. Neal Mathias Reisel was sentenced yesterday in Madison County Circuit Court to 10 years imprisonment for second-degree possession of a forged instrument, as well as five years for third degree burglary, with both sentences ordered to run concurrently.

The forgery case was prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office, and the burglary case was prosecuted by the Madison County District Attorney’s Office. Reisel currently is being held in the Limestone County Jail due to revocation of his parole for a prior robbery conviction there.

“A crime involving a forged official document is a serious offense because it threatens the integrity and trust in which citizens hold documents of their government,” said Attorney General Strange. “It is particularly outrageous that Reisel committed this additional crime in an attempt to evade responsibility for previous crimes. I commend those involved in bringing this defendant to justice, including Assistant Attorneys General Stephanie Billingslea, Bill Lisenby, Pete Smyczek, Thomas Govan and Tina Coker, and special agents of the Attorney General’s Investigations Division.”

The Attorney General’s Office presented evidence to a Madison County grand jury in 2008, resulting in an indictment charging that Reisel possessed or uttered a letter purporting to be from a public office, public employee or government agency, with knowledge that it was forged and with intent to defraud, in violation of Section 13A-9-6 of the Code of Alabama. He pleaded guilty to the charge on February 2, 2011.

The document is a letter purportedly written to a Chicago attorney from the Attorney General’s Opinions Division chief and on behalf of the Attorney General. The document was allegedly sent to a potential employer by Reisel. It states that the Attorney General’s Office has reviewed evidence, stipulates that Reisel did not participate in crimes with which he is charged, and that the Attorney General’s Office “is here to work for Mr. Reisel to restore his good public record.” The document further states that Reisel is entitled to a pardon, but because of the unique situation, the pardon would not be reflected in Reisel’s record because a crime was committed under his identity. The document offers as solutions a resolution by the Alabama Legislature or a Presidential pardon, “for which this office will support you.” The document concludes with a promise to “work our hardest to restore Mr. Reisel’s record to that of a law abiding, dedicated, and service oriented Alabama resident.” The document is dated November



7, 2007. The recipient of the letter contacted the Opinions Division Chief and the resulting investigation ensued.

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