



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLP MAN CONVICTED OF FORGERY

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Carbondale resident was convicted of Forgery following a plea of guilty.

George Wright, 42, of Colp, Illinois, pled guilty to Forgery, a Class 3 Felony, on June 1, 2015. On August 9, 2014, the Carbondale Police Department observed a green 2003 Cadillac Escalade Ext speeding 15 miles per hour over the posted speed limit on North New Era Road. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle and the driver of the vehicle identified himself as Darnell Timmons. A review of Mr. Timmons' records indicated that he had a current warrant for his arrest out of Pulaski County. Mr. Timmons was taken into custody, and transported to the Carbondale Police Department where he was able to post bond and was released. However, before leaving, the man portraying himself as Mr. Timmons signed both his traffic citation and bond release sheet as Mr. Timmons.

On January 2, 2015, Carbondale Police Officers saw the same vehicle and the same driver heading east on E. Walnut in Carbondale. A review of Darnell Timmons' driving record indicated that he had a suspended driver's license. A traffic stop was attempted on the vehicle, but the driver fled east towards South Giant City Road. During the pursuit, the driver reached speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour and got away. However, a short time later, the vehicle was stopped north of Anna, Illinois, by the Union County Sheriff's Department. The driver of the vehicle identified himself as the defendant, George Wright. The defendant was transported back to the Carbondale Police Department where he admitted that he had previously given the false name of Darnell Timmons in order to evade prosecution.

On January 2, 2015, the Jackson County State's Attorney's Office charged the defendant with one count of Forgery, a Class 3 Felony, one count of Obstructing Justice, a Class 4 Felony, and one count of Aggravated Fleeing to Elude the Police. On the Forgery count, the defendant was eligible to serve up to 5 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections or 30 months of probation. On June 1, 2015, the defendant pled guilty to the Forgery charge and all other counts were dismissed. The defendant will serve 30 months of probation, and he must serve 30 days in the Jackson County Jail

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. Assistant State's Attorney Patrick Brewster was responsible for the prosecution of this case.