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NEWS RELEASE

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IDENTITY THIEF SENTENCED TO 80 YEAR PRISON TERM

A man described as a career criminal is being forced into retirement – he was sentenced today to 80 years in prison.

James Crumb (dob: 01-29-58) originally faced scores of felony charges spanning several years. He agreed to plead guilty to six counts of theft and two counts of forgery.

At today's sentencing hearing, Denver Deputy District Attorney Ken Laff argued for a lengthy prison term because of the serious and chronic nature of Crumb's fraud and forgery activities. Crumb then spent nearly an hour making a statement on his own behalf before Denver District Court Judge Christina Habas sentenced him to 80 years in the Department of Corrections. He is also ordered to pay more than half a million dollars in restitution. He has numerous prior felony convictions and is also awaiting sentencing on a criminal case in Arapahoe County.

Crumb used a variety of schemes to steal identities, obtain and use fraudulent credit cards, forge checks and even forge other documents such as Quit Claim deeds. His victims included banks, retailers and individuals. Crumb even portrayed himself at times as a religious man running "Crumb Ministries -- Bread of Life" and would convince people to give him cash for counterfeit checks.

The successful conclusion of these cases is the direct result of the dedication and determination of investigators with US Postal Service, the Denver Police Department and the Denver DA's Office who worked for nearly five years to bring the cases to a close.