



Rod Underhill, District Attorney  
1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Room 600  
Portland, OR 97204-1193  
Phone: 503-988-3162 Fax: 503-988-3643  
[www.mcda.us](http://www.mcda.us)

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**Breaonna Rae Nicklin receives formal probation, jail sentence in check cashing scheme**

Today, Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill announced that 27-year-old Breaonna Rae Nicklin was put on 48 months of formal probation and given a 15 day jail sentence for committing identity theft and fraudulently cashing checks that resulted in a business losing more than \$15,000.

In 2016, the Portland Police Bureau's White Collar Crimes Unit started receiving reports of multiple checks being fraudulently cashed. During the investigation, detectives identified at least two bank accounts wherein the fraudulent checks were being deposited.

Detectives determined the person making the deposits was Nicklin. In exchange for her being allowed to use the bank accounts to deposit the fraudulent checks, the two account holders were provided drugs.

One of the checks deposited by Nicklin was in the amount of \$15,171. An insurance company issued the check as part of a life insurance policy. Another check, also issued by the insurance company, was in the amount of \$474.70. Both checks were deposited several days before the victim reported them as never received.

Approximately a month after the first two checks were deposited, a check in the amount of \$5,026.26 was deposited. The check was reported stolen by a separate victim after it had been issued by a higher education institution.

In 2019, police received information that a person's identity had been unlawfully used to rent a hotel room in Multnomah County. During that investigation, law enforcement determined Nicklin had completed the registration process at the hotel using the identity of another person. She was also found to be in possession of numerous peoples' personal identifying information.

By changing her plea to two counts of aggravated identity theft in the first degree in the two different cases, Nicklin admitted she unlawfully, and with intent to defraud, was in possession of personal identifying information of 10 or more people, and that she unlawfully, and with intent to defraud, converted to her own use the personal identification of another person that resulted in losses of \$10,000 or more.

As part of her sentence, Nicklin will be required to receive an evaluation for drug addiction and comply with any treatment that is ordered. If the court finds Nicklin in violation of her probation, she could receive a sentence of up to 35 months in prison.

This case was prosecuted by Multnomah County Deputy District Attorney Leslie Wu.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office reminds the public that check fraud can occur in multiple ways. Checks sent by mail, including those in birthday and holiday cards, are susceptible to theft. Once a thief has a check in their possession, it could be tampered with.

Checks include a wealth of personal information such as a person's name, address and full bank account information. That information could be used by a person for nefarious purposes such as draining the account's funds and/or opening new credit accounts.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the [Portland Police Bureau's White Collar Crimes Unit](#) continue to advocate that all organizations take [preventative measures](#) to limit their exposure to potential embezzlement. Furthermore, any organization that suspects the intentional misuse or misappropriation of funds or property by an employee should report those suspicions to law enforcement immediately.

Additionally, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office reminds the community that it is important that businesses and non-profit organizations have redundancies in place to ensure proper accounting for cash, checks and credit/debit card transactions. All businesses should undergo routine financial audits that are conducted by a person or organization separate from the primary accountant. If employees are expected to handle cash, including making nightly deposits, businesses should ensure that there is always more than one employee present during cash counts and drop offs.

#MCDA#

Contact: Brent Weisberg, Communications Director  
Multnomah County District Attorney's Office  
Phone: 503.988.6567 | Email: [Brent.Weisberg@mcda.us](mailto:Brent.Weisberg@mcda.us)