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Hotel Employee Pleads Guilty to 57 Charges, Receives Lengthy Prison Sentence

Kevin Jamar Wright, age 40, a former front desk employee at the Hampton Inn and Arrive Hotel, both in downtown Wilmington, plead guilty on Friday, September 11, 2026 in New Hanover County Superior Court to two counts of Aggravated Identity Theft, 44 counts of Identity Theft, two counts of Financial Card Theft, one count of Possession or Manufacture of Fraudulent Identification, and eight counts of Obtaining Property by False Pretenses.

Wright has served several stints in jail and prison for theft, fraud, and related offenses since 2015. In September of 2022, Wright was released from prison for charges related to theft of credit card information from a hotel guest while Wright was employed at that hotel. Within two months of release, he was hired as a front-desk employee at the Hampton Inn in downtown Wilmington. There, he illegally took copies of credit card forms, which included copies of credit cards and driver's licenses of hotel guests. He used several of these credit cards for his own personal expenses, including paying a deposit for a Wilmington apartment, renting a hotel room, and posting bond for a friend in a different criminal case. When he was arrested for these offenses in December of 2022, the arresting officer found two three-ring binders full of Hampton Inn credit card authorization forms along with copies of credit cards and driver's licenses for more than 80 hotel guests, some from both the Hampton Inn in Wilmington and a Hampton Inn in Raleigh.

Wright posted bond and was out of custody awaiting trial for the Hampton Inn crimes when he was hired for a front desk job at the Arrive Hotel in Wilmington. He continued his identity theft scheme, collecting credit card information and driver's licenses of hotel guests, this time capturing photographs of the documents on his cell phone. He used Arrive Hotel guests' credit cards to purchase furniture, a washer and dryer, a U-Haul rental, hotel stays, McDonald's, and to pay for his car insurance and utilities. When he was again arrested in June of 2023, his cell phone contained the personal information of approximately 38 victims.

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Kent Harrell sentenced Wright as a Habitual Felon, ordering him to serve a 117-to-153-month active sentence, with an additional 33-to-49-month sentence to be imposed if the defendant violates probation at the conclusion of his prison term.

"The financial crimes perpetrated by this defendant affected dozens of individuals from around the country who were visiting our city," said District Attorney Jason W. Smith. "If your criminal activity has become a career, then we will seek lengthy prison sentences."

The cases were investigated by Wilmington Police Detectives Brannon, Ake, and Getman. Assistant District Attorneys Matthew Stegman and David Joyner prosecuted the case.



Kevin Jamar Wright