



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

JORDANIAN SENTENCED FOR FRAUD MARRIAGE, FALSIFYING PILOT APPLICATION

CHICAGO—A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigation resulted in a Jordanian man being sentenced here today to time served in federal prison for lying on multiple Federal Aviation Administration applications and for entering into a fraudulent marriage to a U.S. citizen to evade immigration laws.

U.S. District Court Judge Amy St. Eve handed down the sentence to Sami Abuhamatto, 24, who lied on his FAA application to become a certified commercial pilot and flight instructor.

Abuhamatto is now eligible for deportation based upon his criminal conviction. He is now in ICE custody.

ICE special agents arrested Abuhamatto in July at his Brookfield residence and charged him with making false statements about being born in the United States and falsely claiming U.S. citizenship on three Airman Certificates/Rating Applications he submitted to the FAA in 2001 and 2002. Abuhamatto signed his FAA applications stating the information included in the applications was true, but it was not.

Abuhamatto entered the U.S. on a six-month tourist visa that expired in December 1996. He was also sentenced for committing marriage fraud by paying a U.S. citizen \$1,500 to marry him in December 2003 so he could apply for permanent residency in the U.S.

The investigation into Abuhamatto was initiated in February after a member of the public became suspicious of his identity and contacted ICE officials.

“Lying about U.S. citizenship on an FAA application is a serious issue, especially in light of the 9/11 hijackings and terrorist attacks,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa A. Brown, who leads investigations for ICE in Chicago. “Our ICE agents work diligently to uncover and halt criminal activity that poses a threat to national security.”

Abuhamatto was employed as a flight instructor by Midway Aviators in Chicago and J.F. Aviation in Joliet prior to his arrest.

Members of the public can report suspicious activity by calling the ICE toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.