Department of Justice

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ILLINOIS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANUFACTURING FAKE IDs

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- Robin E. Johnson, 22, of Chicago, Illinois, pleaded guilty yesterday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Jonathan W. Feldman, to a felony charge of transferring false identification documents, U.S. Attorney Terrance P. Flynn of the Western District of New York announced. Transferring false identification documents carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison, a fine of $250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who handled the case, stated that the defendant, was an active member on several online criminal false identification document forums, namely Novelty ID Forum. Using the name "Lexie" online, the defendant received orders from members of the Novelty ID Forum, or through eBay, and manufactured false identification documents with the photo and information that the buyer requested to be printed on the false identification document. During the years 2006 and 2007, the defendant sold over 175 false identification documents for $28,800.00. On September 14, 2007, undercover U.S. Secret Service agents, situated in the Western District of New York, approached "Lexie", the defendant, online. The defendant sold two false State of Tennessee driver's licenses and a false college ID to the undercover agents for $225.00 which was wired to the name "Lexie Cox", per the defendant's request, via Western Union on September 19, 2007. On October 2, 2007, the undercover agents received the two false State of Tennessee driver's licenses and false college ID from the defendant which had been sent via Fedex from Illinois to the undercover drop box located in the Western District of New York.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Michael Bryant.

Sentencing will be in front of U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, but has not yet been scheduled.