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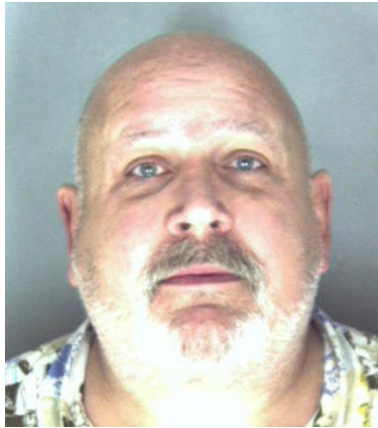
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Second Co-Defendant Pleads Guilty in Funeral Home Fraud Case



ALBANY, NY - District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., 59, currently of Berlin, NY, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, and (1) Count of Criminal Tax Fraud in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick in Albany County Court this afternoon.

CATALANO, JR. faces 2 to 6 years in State Prison when sentenced on September 22, 2016.

In 2013, an independent forensic account audit for the Parker Brothers Memorial Funeral Home in Watervliet, NY, uncovered fraudulent entries in the business record books during a period of time between 2010 and 2013.

An investigation led by the New York State Police uncovered that during those dates, SAMUEL F. CATALANO, JR., with the assistance of co-defendant MARK S. FIET, did steal large sums of money from the proceeds of the funeral home. The thefts were further covered up with false entries in the business records of the establishment. CATALANO JR. did steal over \$150,000 from the funeral home and failed to report that money as income, resulting in multiple tax law violations.

At the time of the theft, CATALANO JR. was the director and manager of the rural “hill-town” funeral homes within the business, while FIET was working as the funeral home director and office manager in Watervliet.

On December 1, 2015, co-defendant FIET, 64, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, and (1) Count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, before the Honorable Judge Stephen W. Herrick. FIET faces up to 1 to 3 years in State Prison, and will be ordered to pay between \$50,000 to \$65,000 in restitution when sentenced at a later date.

Assistant District Attorney Shadi Masri of the Financial Crimes Unit is prosecuting this case.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov

***All parties are presumed innocent until
and unless proven guilty***

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