

NEWS RELEASE

MARY BETH BUCHANAN UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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United States Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan announced today, June 9, 2009, that a criminal Information has been filed in federal court in Johnstown charging Karen M. Kephart of State College, Pennsylvania, with providing contraband in prison.

The one-count Information named Kephart, age 45, of 444 Amblewood Way, State College, Pennsylvania, as the sole defendant.

According to the Information filed with the court by Assistant United States Attorney John J. Valkovci, Jr., from January 2007 to August 2007 Kephart, an employee at the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center, provided contraband to an inmate at the facility.

The law provides for a maximum total sentence of six months in prison, a fine of \$5,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offense and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant. The United States Department of Justice/Office of the Inspector General conducted the investigation leading to the filing of the Information in this case.

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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