



# Department of Justice

**Acting United States Attorney Bruce D. Brandler  
Middle District of Pennsylvania**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/PAM](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/PAM)

PIO CONTACT: Dawn Clark  
WORK: (717) 221-4458  
CELL: (717) 975-7128  
EMAIL: Dawn.Clark2@usdoj.gov

## **WILLIAMSPORT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO WIRE FRAUD**

WILLIAMSPORT - The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that Benjamin Butler, age 33, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, pled guilty on March 17, 2021, before U.S. District Court Judge Matthew W. Brann to wire fraud.

According to Acting United States Attorney Bruce D. Brandler, Butler engaged in a kiting scheme in September and October of 2015, whereby he used multiple credit accounts to fraudulently pay off \$18,850 of credit card charges by using the temporary credit on one card to pay off another account even though he did not have the funds to ultimately cover such a payment.

The charges stem from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Geoffrey W. MacArthur is prosecuting the case.

A sentence following a finding of guilt is imposed by the court after consideration of the applicable federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

Butler is facing a maximum of thirty years of incarceration and a \$250,000 fine. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the court is also required to consider and weigh a number of factors, including the nature, circumstances and seriousness of the offense; the history and characteristics of the defendant; and the need to punish the defendant, protect the public and provide for the defendant's educational, vocational and medical needs. For these reasons, the statutory maximum penalty for the offense is not an accurate indicator of the potential sentence for a specific defendant.

###