

DETROIT NEWS BRIEFS

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2 ARE SENTENCED IN REAL ESTATE FRAUD SCHEMES

Two Detroiters have been sentenced for fraud-related crimes they committed to make money on real estate, the Wayne County Fraud Task Force announced Monday.

Danny Stokes, 44, was sentenced for forging the power of attorney to allow the fraudulent sale of a person's house and falsely acquiring the mortgage.

He was sentenced to three to 10 years for obtaining money under false pretenses for over \$20,000, two to 14 years on three counts of uttering and publishing and three counts of forgery, three to 10 years for second-degree money laundering, two to five years for identity theft and two to five years for conspiracy. The sentences will run concurrently. Stokes also must pay restitution to the victim.

Lamont Williams, 43, was sentenced for making a fake deed with the forged signature of the dead homeowner so he could rent out rooms.

He was sentenced to three years of probation for forging signatures and documents. He must pay restitution of \$15,000.

The antifraud unit, made up of the county Register of Deeds, the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecutor's Office, has opened more than 350 cases of suspected fraudulent property ownership with a 100% conviction rate, according to the task force.

-- Compiled by Zachary Gorchow and Zlati Meyer.

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