

Lebanon Man Pleads Guilty to Unemployment Fraud

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jason Pittman, 24, of Lebanon pled guilty today to theft before Warren County Common Pleas Judge Donald Oda. He will be sentenced in February.

Pittman applied for unemployment benefits in April 2012 after being laid off by Premier Energy Services, a natural gas distribution company, and began receiving unemployment compensation benefits. Pittman was required to file weekly claims verifying that he was unemployed and still able, available, and seeking employment.

Pittman returned to work at Premier Energy Services in September 2013, but continued to claim unemployment benefits. Each week, he falsely certified that he was not working.

The Ohio Department of Job & Family Services uncovered the possible fraud early in 2014 by comparing benefit claims against employment records. While employed, Pittman received \$6,400.00 in benefits as the result of his fraudulent claims.

Pittman faces a maximum sentence of 12 months in prison when sentenced.

“This type of blatant theft of taxpayer money is particularly egregious given that it was stolen from a program intended to assist actual unemployed persons undergoing tremendous financial hardship,” Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell said.



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