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## **RELEASE**

### ***BEARDALL TO SPEND TWO YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO MAIL FRAUD, PERJURY AND CONTEMPT CHARGES***

SALT LAKE CITY – C. Dennis Beardall of Provo, who pleaded guilty in October to three counts of a federal indictment charging him with violations of federal law in connection with the operation of a collection agency, will serve 24 months in federal prison.

Beardall (D.O.B. 6-12-51), who was sentenced late Thursday afternoon by U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart, pleaded guilty in October to committing fraud in his business operation, making false statements in an attempt to mislead federal prosecutors, and violating a court order prohibiting him from harassing or abusing any person in connection with the collection of a debt. Under federal sentencing guidelines, Judge Stewart could have sentenced Beardall, who was indicted in September 1999, to as low as 21 months or as high as 27 months.

Beardall conducted his collection agency business through various names, including Attorneys' Letter Service, Attorney's Credit Services, Audit and Accounting Authority (AAA), and American Collection Association. Acting through these various names, Beardall was in the business of collecting unpaid accounts receivable referred to him by various creditors. Creditors included doctors, dentists, and other businesses in Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming.

Beardall admitted that he made misrepresentations to the creditors on whose behalf he was collecting outstanding debts in order to obtain their business. He

also admitted making misrepresentations in billing statements to the creditors.

In pleading guilty to perjury, Beardall admitted he lied about his assets, while under oath, to representatives of the U.S. Attorney's office who were attempting to collect a civil fine levied upon him by then U.S. District Judge Aldon J. Anderson. Beardall had previously been prohibited by Judge Anderson from violating the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. He acknowledged during his plea agreement that he had violated the injunction by harassing and abusing debtors, posing threats, and failing to notify debtors of their rights under the Act.

Beardall, who must surrender to begin his prison term on January 5, 2001, also was ordered to spend 36 months on supervised release when he is released from prison. Judge Stewart ordered standard stipulations to apply to the supervised release as well as a variety of special stipulations relating to financial and tax matters. A final restitution figure in the case, expected to be in excess of \$200,000, has yet to be determined.