



Thomas A. Thompson, Prosecuting Attorney, Williams Co., Ohio

PRESS RELEASE

[Victims Assistance Home](#) [Williams County Home Page](#) [Sheriff](#) [Disclaimer](#)

[PROSECUTOR HOME PAGE](#)

[Victim Assistance](#)
[Press Releases](#)
[Grand Jury Reports](#)
[Criminal Division](#)
[Civil Division](#)
[About the Prosecutor](#)
[Contact & Address Info](#)
[Directions](#)
[Sexual Offenders](#)

December 7, 2011 NEWS RELEASE

BATES CONVICTED OF STALKING AND IDENTIFY FRAUD

FOLLOWING SEVEN DAY JURY TRIAL

Joseph C. Bates, 40, of Cygnet, Ohio, was convicted Wednesday of eight (8) criminal counts following a seven day jury trial. Guilty verdicts were returned on five (5) counts of Identity Fraud, each a felony of the fifth degree; one (1) count of Menacing by Stalking, a felony of the fourth degree; one (1) count of Menacing by Stalking, a misdemeanor of the first degree; and, one (1) count of Possessing Criminal Tools, a felony of the fifth degree. Sentencing is scheduled for January 5, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Bates faces a prison term of up to seven and a half years and fines of up to \$20,000.00.

Prosecuting Attorney Tom Thompson presented the case on behalf of the State of Ohio. Mr. Thompson stated, "It was very gratifying to be able to provide the victims the opportunity to share their testimony with the jury. They waited a long time to be able to face this man in court and the guilty verdicts will hopefully provide them with some closure on this ordeal." Thompson went on to explain, "This was a very lengthy and difficult trial due to the volume and nature of the evidence presented. There were somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 items admitted into evidence, some being computer records of a very technical nature."

Mr. Thompson wishes to thank the Bryan Police Department, Williams County Sheriff's Office, Wood County Sheriff's Office, Defiance County Sheriff's Office and Williams County Health Department for their assistance with the investigation and prosecution of the case.

See prior press releases at www.williamscountyprosecutor.org