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**FORMER ROCKAWAY RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR STEALING
EX-WIFE'S IDENTITY TO POST NUDE PHOTOS OF HER ON THE INTERNET**

Sentenced to 2½ to 5 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a former Rockaway resident who stole his wife's identity and posted nude photos of her on the Internet was sentenced yesterday to two-and-one-half to five years in prison following his guilty plea to identity theft and criminal contempt.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant in this case subjected his former wife to despicable behavior that left her fearful and vulnerable. The psychological scars she suffered will be with her for a lifetime. The sentence imposed is more than warranted."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Thomas Gillen, 46, of 112 Manor Drive in Hagerstown, Maryland. The defendant pleaded guilty in December to first-degree identity theft and first-degree criminal contempt before Queens Supreme Court Justice William M. Erlbaum who sentenced him yesterday to two-and-one-half to five years in prison.

According to the District Attorney, as part of his plea, the defendant admitted that, between November 2007 and July 2008, he accessed an Internet account that he created in the name of his former wife – and pretended to be her – in order to contact various men and engage them in conversations of a sexual nature. He also sent various men nude photos of his former wife and also posted such photos on the Internet. The defendant admitted that he impersonated his former wife on the Internet 1,577 times during that period. He also admitted being in criminal contempt of a court order for violating the terms of a 2007 order of protection in which he was ordered to attend counseling and not impersonate his former wife on the Internet. He had been sentenced to five years' probation in the 2007 case. In addition, Gillen pleaded guilty earlier this year to violating probation and was sentenced to one to three years in prison which will run concurrent to the sentence he received yesterday.

"Thomas Gillen had me fearing for my life and for those dearest to me. He manipulated me into marrying him by threatening me," his victim told the court, saying the abuse has left her fearful.

The case was investigated by Sergeant John W. Kenna of the District Attorney's Detective Bureau under the supervision of Chief Investigator Lawrence J. Festa and Deputy Chief Investigator Albert D. Velardi. The defendant was apprehended with the assistance of the Pennsylvania State Police.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Kateri A. Gasper, of the District Attorney's Computer Crimes Unit of the Special Proceedings Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Bureau Chief Anthony M. Communiello, Deputy Bureau Chief Oscar W. Ruiz, and Computer Crimes Unit Chief Robert D. Alexander, and under the overall supervision of Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.