



**MENDOCINO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**THOMAS D. ALLMAN**  
**Sheriff-Coroner**  
707/463-4411

**News Release**

**DATE:** August 29, 2007

**REPORT NO.:** MCSO FI#07-0244

**CRIME/INCIDENT:** Internet/Mail Scam

**LOCATION:** Mendocino County coastal area

**WHEN:** DATE: 08-22-2007 TIME:

**WHO: VICTIM(s) NAME** AGE ADDRESS CITY STATE

V #1:  
#2:

**WHO: SUSPECT(s) NAME** AGE ADDRESS CITY STATE

S #1:  
#2:

**WRITTEN BY:** Detective Sergeant Greg Van Patten #1184

**SYNOPSIS:**

On 08-29-2007 a Detective from the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office was contacted by a concerned citizen about a suspicious check they had received through FedEx.

The citizen indicated they had been contacted over the Internet in regards to a vacation rental home they owned in the township of Mendocino. During the contact a person known as "Franklin Lombado" reserved the rental home for 4 days but never arrived as scheduled.

The citizen contacted "Franklin Lombado" by email in an attempt to check the person's wellbeing. This contact established a correspondence with the pair and eventually the citizen received a computer generated check from "Allied Technology Group, INC." for a total of \$2,500.00.

The check was delivered to the citizen by a FedEx carrier.

An email preceding the check instructed the citizen to cash the check for the reserved rate of the rental home (approximately \$865.00). The citizen was instructed to return the remaining

APPROVED BY: Lt Noe\_\_\_\_\_

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balance of the money, approximately \$1,635.00, by using Western Union.

The bank listed on the check was contacted and it was determined the check was fictitious.

Citizens of Mendocino County are warned and asked to ignore these such requests made via the internet or mail.

A majority of the time the monies will be sent to the suspect making the request before the bank notifies the victim that the fictitious check is fake, ultimately making the victim personally responsible for the cashing of the check.

If there is any question of the validity of any such mailer the recipient is asked to contact their local law enforcement agency or bank before following the instructions of the mailer.

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