

Local man with false ID allegedly accesses relative's bank account, takes \$2,000

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Fraud investigations opened earlier this year by a local bank and the local office of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles have resulted in several criminal charges being filed against Ricky L. Mullins, 36.

Mullins, who lived at a rural Scottsburg address, allegedly obtained a false ID from the BMV after presenting the local office with utility bills and a relative's social security number.

He then reportedly used the ID to gain access to a relative's bank account and withdrew \$2,000.

Sgt. Steve Herald of the Scottsburg Police Department investigated the late September incident at the bank. Employees there became suspicious because Mullins purportedly tried previously to make a withdrawal from his relative's account. He was initially refused because he had no identification.

The bank employee told Sgt. Herald that Mullins returned later the same day and presented a print-out from the BMV with his photo but listing the relative's information.

The relative, it was learned, was incarcerated at the time of the bank incident.

In the BMV investigation, the officer learned that employees compared the photo taken of Mullins that day with an earlier photo of Mullins' relative found in their records. The photos did not match.

Filed against Mullins in Scott Circuit Court are three Class C felony charges of forgery as well as two Class D felonies, identity deception and theft.

At the suspect's initial court hearing, a not guilty plea was entered for him and a jury trial date of March 11 was assigned to the case. A public defender was appointed.

His bail is fixed at \$50,000 corporate surety or full cash. A hearing will be held in Circuit Court on January 7 to determine if that amount should be altered.