

Southwest Ohio business owner gets prison time, hefty fine for work comp fraud

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Business owner defrauded BWC of \$425K



The owner of a former payroll services company in southwest Ohio was sentenced to six months in federal prison and fined \$10,000 today for defrauding the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) out of more than \$425,000.

John R. Cacaro, 59, owner of the now-defunct Employers Choice Plus LLC, also must serve one year of house arrest and three years of supervised release under a sentence handed down by U.S. District Judge Michael H. Watson in the U.S. District Court for southern Ohio.

“Multiple businesses entrusted Mr. Cacaro with processing their payroll and remitting insurance premiums to our agency and he broke that trust,” said Jim Wernecke, director of BWC’s special investigations department. “Justice was served today and I can’t thank our partners in this investigation enough, the IRS Criminal Investigation unit and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio.”

Cacaro was convicted in June on wire fraud and money laundering charges after BWC and IRS investigators discovered a scheme he concocted to short BWC on the insurance premiums he received from employers and pocket the

difference.

“John Cacaro made a conscious decision to keep over \$425,000 in workers’ compensation premiums so he could live a lavish lifestyle that included the purchase of a second residence in Naples, Florida, and a motor home,” said IRS Special Agent in Charge Ryan L. Korner. “Now he is a convicted felon headed to prison.”

At his sentencing today, Cacaro submitted a cashier’s check to the court for \$425,247 in restitution to BWC. He noted that he has voluntarily closed Employers Choice Plus and he will likely have gainful employment through his car transportation business when he leaves prison.

To report suspected workers’ compensation fraud, call 1-800-644-6292 or visit bwc.ohio.gov.