

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

Nov. 08, 2022



By Kaitlyn Alanis, The Charlotte Observer (TNS)

A bookkeeper accused of **stealing more than \$2.2 million** from his employer in Indiana vanished just two weeks before his court hearing in 2013, according to federal officials. Then he remained out of custody for over eight years—until U.S. Marshals found one of his social media profiles.

Now Jody Russell Trapp, 58, has been sentenced to 90 months in federal prison, according to a Nov. 8 news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern

District of Indiana. He's also ordered to pay \$2,528,716.63 in restitution.

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

or duplicate invoices for work that had already been billed and paid, as well as checks to pay the (fictitious) or duplicate invoices.”

By December 2011, he had embezzled \$2,285,236.63, according to court records. Then he used most of the money to invest in the stock market, where authorities said he received taxable income but failed to file income tax returns.

McClatchy News reached out to Shelton Machinery for comment on Nov. 8 and did not immediately hear back.

Trapp was arrested in January 2012, records show. “He was released on conditions,” and in November he filed a petition to plead guilty.

But two weeks before his change of plea and sentencing hearing scheduled in March 2013, authorities said Trapp secretly escaped from his home.

Trapp's defense attorney did not immediately respond to a request for comment from McClatchy News on Nov. 8.

Years after Trapp disappeared in 2021, authorities said deputy U.S. Marshals found a social media profile linked to the “fugitive bookkeeper.” They were then able to find many photos of Trapp on Facebook and Instagram.

Law enforcement used this information to find Trapp living in Utah. Officials arrested him again in October 2021.

An investigation revealed Trapp was living as an “Amish widower” by the name of Abram Hochstetler, according to court records. His wife in Indiana had actually divorced him in 2014.

While in Utah, authorities said he “met a wealthy Mormon divorcee at a church dance and married her in 2017.”

Trapp pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion in July 2022, records show.

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

© 2022 The Charlotte Observer. Visit [charlotteobserver.com](https://www.charlotteobserver.com). Distributed by Tribune Content Agency LLC.

Accounting • Taxes

CPA Practice Advisor is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors.

© 2024 Firmworks, LLC. All rights reserved