

PRESS RELEASE

Nanticoke Man Charged With Pandemic Fraud Offenses

Friday, August 1, 2025

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Pennsylvania

SCRANTON – The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that Joseph Kaminski, age 58, of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, PA, was indicted on July 29, 2025, by a federal grand jury for pandemic fraud offenses, including wire fraud, money laundering, and making false statements to the Small Business Administration ("SBA").

According to Acting United States Attorney John C. Gurganus, the indictment alleges that from approximately January 2020 to approximately January 2025, Kaminski engaged in a scheme to defraud the SBA of over \$850,000.00 in emergency pandemic funding made available to small business owners through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan ("EIDL") program. The indictment also alleges that Kaminski fraudulently obtained over \$40,000.00 of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance ("PUA") benefits to which he was not entitled by deceiving the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

This case was investigated by IRS-Criminal Investigations and by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeffery St John and Tatum Wilson are prosecuting the case.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors and assists agencies tasked with administering relief programs to prevent fraud by, among other methods, augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the Department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud

(NCDF) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCDF Web Complaint Form at:
<https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

The maximum penalty under federal law for these offenses is 20 years' imprisonment, a term of supervised release following imprisonment, and a fine. A sentence following a finding of guilt is imposed by the Judge after consideration of the applicable federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

Indictments are only allegations. All persons charged are presumed to be innocent unless and until found guilty in court. unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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