

August 29, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL ANNOUNCES CONVICTIONS IN ONGOING EFFORTS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Raoul is Holding Individuals Who Lie on FOID Applications Accountable to Keep Guns Out of The Hands of Those Prohibited From Owning Them

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced three convictions resulting from the office's efforts to keep guns out of the hands of prohibited purchasers. Raoul alleges that all three defendants falsified information on FOID card applications they submitted to the Illinois State Police (ISP).

"These convictions are a critical part of my office's continued work to prevent gun violence by making sure firearms do not get into the hands of those who should not legally have them," Raoul said. "Individuals who lie on their firearm owner's identification card applications to obtain weapons they are not legally able to possess must be held accountable."

"The Illinois State Police takes the right to bear arms very seriously, and those who illegally attempt to obtain a FOID card will be brought to justice," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "ISP will continue to work with the Attorney General's Office to make sure those who are prohibited from owning a firearm by federal or state law do not receive a FOID card."

Joe Burks, 66, of Chicago, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a Class 2 felony offense of unlawful violation of the Firearm Owner's Identification Card Act and was sentenced to two years of probation and four days in county jail.

[Attorney General Raoul alleged Burks](#) knowingly entered false information on a FOID card application. In addition to responding to one of the application's questions with false information, Raoul alleged Burks forged and submitted a document certifying his honorable discharge from active military duty. However, according to U.S. Army records, Burks was dishonorably discharged and sentenced to 10 years of confinement in 1987. Illinois law prohibits individuals who have been convicted of a felony or dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces from being eligible for FOID cards. Assistant Attorneys General Steven Knight and Peter Ravoori prosecuted the case for Raoul's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau.

Tyler E. Crown, 27, of Pecatonica, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor offense of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and was sentenced to two years of probation and 15 days in county jail.

[Raoul alleged Crown](#) knowingly entered false information on a FOID card application. When filling out his FOID card application, Crown indicated he had not been adjudicated a delinquent minor for an offense, which had he been prosecuted as an adult, would have been a felony. However, according to Raoul, Crown had been adjudicated a delinquent minor for such an offense. Illinois law prohibits individuals who have been previously adjudicated a delinquent minor for a crime that if committed as an adult would have been a felony from being eligible for a FOID card. Assistant Attorneys General Steven Knight and Peter Ravoori prosecuted the case for Raoul's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau.

Patrick S. Nichols, 60, of Taylorville, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a class 2 felony offense of unlawful violation of the Firearm Owner's Identification Card Act and was sentenced to two years of probation and eight days in county jail.

[Raoul alleged Nichols](#) knowingly entered false information on a FOID card application by failing to disclose a prior felony conviction. Nichols was previously convicted of a crime against nature out of the state of North Carolina. Assistant Attorneys General Steven Knight and Heidi Epperson prosecuted the case for Raoul's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau.



June 10, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: CHICAGO VETERAN ARRAIGNED OVER ALLEGEDLY FALSIFYING INFORMATION ON FOID CARD APPLICATION

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Cook County man was arraigned after the Attorney General's office alleged he falsified information on the FOID card application he submitted to the Illinois State Police (ISP).

Attorney General Raoul charged Joe Burks, 65, of Chicago with two counts of violating the Firearm Owner's Identification Card Act, Class 2 felonies punishable by up to three to seven years in prison, and four counts of forgery, Class 3 felonies punishable by up to two to five years in prison. Burks pleaded not guilty, and his next court date is scheduled for July 11.

"Preventing gun violence across Illinois includes holding individuals accountable who lie to procure firearms they are prohibited from owning through legal means," Raoul said. "I will continue to partner with the Illinois State Police and law enforcement agencies across Illinois to address gun violence by preventing firearms from ending up in the hands of those legally prohibited from owning them."

Raoul's indictment alleges Burks knowingly entered false information on a FOID card application. In addition to responding to one of the application's questions with false information, Raoul alleges Burks also forged and submitted a document certifying his honorable discharge from active military duty. However, according to U.S. Army records, Burks was dishonorably discharged and sentenced to 10 years of confinement in 1987 after sexually assaulting a child. Illinois law prohibits individuals who have been convicted of a felony or dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces from being eligible for FOID cards.

"It is critical to prevent those who are prohibited from having a firearm from gaining access," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "ISP will continue to work closely with the Illinois Attorney General's Office to bring those who break the law to justice and protect the rights of citizens."

The public is reminded the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorneys General Steven Knight and Peter Ravoori are prosecuting the case for Raoul's Statewide Grand Jury Bureau.

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March 8, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: WINNEBAGO COUNTY MAN ARRAIGNED FOR ALLEGEDLY LYING ON FOID CARD APPLICATION

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Winnebago County man was arraigned after the Attorney General’s office alleged he falsified information on the FOID card application he submitted to the Illinois State Police (ISP).

Attorney General Raoul charged Tyler E. Crown, 27, of Pecatonica in Winnebago County Circuit Court with two counts of forgery, Class 3 felonies punishable by up to two to five years in prison; one count of entering false information on a FOID application, a Class 2 felony punishable by up to three to seven years in prison, and one count of giving a false answer to a question on a FOID application, a Class 2 felony punishable by up to three to seven years in prison. Crown has pleaded not guilty, and his bond was set at \$25,000.

“As part of my office’s ongoing efforts to reduce gun violence throughout Illinois, we are working with the Illinois State Police to identify and prosecute individuals who lie on their FOID applications,” Raoul said. “My office will continue to ensure that individuals are held accountable for falsifying information on FOID cards in order to purchase guns they are legally prohibited from owning.”

Raoul’s indictment alleges Crown knowingly entered false information on a FOID card application. Raoul is alleging that when filling out his FOID card application, Crown indicated he had not been adjudicated a delinquent minor for an offense, which had he been prosecuted as an adult, would have been a felony. However according to Raoul, Crown had been adjudicated a delinquent minor for such an offense. Illinois law prohibits individuals who have been convicted of a felony from being eligible for FOID cards.

The public is reminded the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorneys General Steven Knight and Peter Ravoori are prosecuting the case for Raoul’s Statewide Grand Jury Bureau.

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July 1, 2022

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: CHRISTIAN COUNTY MAN ARRAIGNED FOR ALLEGEDLY LYING ON FOID CARD APPLICATION

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced a Christian County man was arraigned after the Attorney General’s office alleged he falsified information on the FOID card application he submitted to the Illinois State Police (ISP).

Attorney General Raoul charged Patrick S. Nichols, 60, of Taylorville, Illinois with two counts of violating the Firearm Owner’s Identification Card Act, Class 2 felonies punishable by up to three to seven years in prison, and two counts of forgery, Class 3 felonies punishable by up to two to five years in prison. Nichols has pleaded not guilty, and his bond was set at \$10,000.

“Individuals who skirt Illinois law to obtain firearms they are not legally able to possess need to be held accountable,” Raoul said. “I will continue partnering with the Illinois State Police and law enforcement agencies across the state to work to reduce gun violence by making sure firearms do not get into the hands of those who should not legally have them.”

Raoul’s indictment alleges Nichols knowingly entered false information on a FOID card application by failing to disclose a prior felony conviction. Nichols was previously convicted of a crime against nature out of the state of North Carolina. Illinois law prohibits individuals who have been convicted of a felony from being eligible for FOID cards.

The public is reminded the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorneys General Steven Knight and Heidi Epperson are prosecuting the case for Raoul’s office.

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