



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE • BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY

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Cleveland Men Sentenced for Pest Control Scam

On June 8, 2011, the Bolivar County Circuit Court found Cleveland, Mississippi residents Albert Matthews, 58, and George Matthews, 38, guilty of felony False Pretenses for pest control fraud. The Bolivar County District Attorney's Office filed felony charges against the men following an investigation by the Bolivar County Sheriff's Department, Cleveland Police Department, and MDAC's Bureau of Plant Industry and Agricultural Theft Bureau.

The men were arrested earlier this year for conducting pest control services without a license in Bolivar, Leflore, and Washington Counties. After further investigation, no evidence of termites was detected in any of the trees that were treated.

Both men were sentenced to six years in prison, four years of post release supervision, and each ordered to pay \$1,985 in restitution. They also face one count of False Pretenses in Leflore County, and Albert Matthews faces three additional counts of False Pretenses in Washington County.

For more information, contact the Bureau of Plant Industry at 1-888-257-1285 or (662) 325-3390.

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