

# GENEVA COUNTY NEWS



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# Hartford man pleads guilty

George Raymond Gomes, a native of Hartford, recently pled guilty to over 37 charges in connection with a business he previously ran.

Gomes, 51, was sentenced to seven years in the state penitentiary and continues to be held in the Geneva County Jail pending a final hearing. He pled guilty Tuesday, Oct. 5 to a number of charges, including two felony counts of possession of forged instruments, one felony count of identity theft and 34 misdemeanor counts of third-degree forgery.

The identity theft and third-degree forgery charges stem from "We Care," a business Gomes ran in Hartford that provided sitting service for the elderly. While running the business, Gomes forged a nurse's signature to obtain insurance reimbursements for clients, as well as for himself.

District Attorney Kirke Adams said that leading up to the investigation, law enforcement had received complaints about Gomes' business. The investigation, conducted by Kristin Atwell



and Mike Gillis of the Hartford Police Department as well as the Alabama Bureau of Investigation.

"I hope the citizens of Geneva County will take extra precautions in finding care workers for elderly loved ones," Adams said. "Taking advantage of our elderly is something we take very seriously. I am very pleased with the work of our law enforcement in these cases. We will continue to strive to help protect our seniors."