



He Created Fake Employees And Used Zoom Call Filters To Fool Executives

Caleb Keller, a 38-year-old resident of New Albany, Indiana, has been sentenced to 20 months in federal prison for an elaborate fraud scheme that bilked his employer out of over \$1.2 million.

The way he perpetrated the scheme however is the interesting part of this story.

The Fake Employee Scheme

Keller, who had been with his employer since 2011, orchestrated a complex fraud involving fake employees and falsified invoices. Between April 2017 and June 2021, he submitted 101 fraudulent invoices to his employer through his side business, ***Polyglot Developers***.

The invoices billed for services supposedly performed by two non-existent employees, "Matt Pearson" and "Grant Miller."

Polyglot Developers appears be a developer service that Keller started as a side hustle to make money.

This is a photo of Keller as he was listed as the owner.



In one particularly bold move on April 29, 2019, Keller submitted an invoice for \$19,940, with \$15,200 of that amount attributed to work by the fictitious employees.

The scheme began to unravel when an executive at his company grew suspicious and demanded a meeting with "Matt Pearson." Undeterred, Keller used a video filter during a Zoom call to impersonate the non-existent Pearson.

The Unraveling of His Plan

Keller must have used a bad filter on Zoom because the executive was not convinced. Knowing the person on Zoom was really Keller, he was fired and his employer's relationship with Polyglot was terminated.

In April 2022, Keller was interviewed by law enforcement, claiming that the two employees were real and had actually provided services for his employer. However, in July, when Keller was interviewed again, he admitted the employees were fake and that he was the one on the Zoom call.

In total, Keller deceived his employers into paying about \$1,210,120 for work believed to be completed by fake employees.

Did the employers actually get the work that the fake employees did? That as not answered but it is a great question!

What's Next For Caleb Keller

U.S. Attorney Zachary A. Myers emphasized the severity of the crime, stating, "Trusted employees can cause tremendous harm to a business when they exploit their positions to steal and cover it up." He added that the sentence should serve as a warning to potential fraudsters about the serious consequences of economic crimes.