

PRESS RELEASE

Jacksonville Man Pleads Guilty To Destroying Evidence

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

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/jacksonville-man-pleads-guilty-destroying-evidence>

Tampa, Florida – United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg announces that Christopher Raymond Joseph (19, Jacksonville) has pleaded guilty to destroying records with the intent to impede or obstruct a federal investigation. Joseph faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to the plea agreement, FBI was investigating a terrorism case involving a threat to conduct a violent attack against Jewish individuals and synagogues. As part of the investigation, Joseph was interviewed regarding whether he had knowledge of or involvement in this threat. During the investigation, FBI special agents specifically requested that Joseph preserve certain records of communications on his cellphone with a suspect in another district. Within moments of their departure from his residence, Joseph deleted one of the records that the FBI had discussed with him.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. It is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Joe Wheeler, III and Assistant United States Attorney Cherie Krigsmann, with assistance from the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section.

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