

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.