

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 17-CR-160
16-CR-064

v.

RONALD H. VAN DEN HEUVEL,

Defendant.

ORDER DENYING SECOND MOTION FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE

Defendant Ronald H. Van Den Heuvel pled guilty to multiple fraud schemes in two different cases involving losses totaling some 9.8 million dollars. He was sentenced to 90 months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons and has, so far, completed roughly 23% of his sentence. The case is currently before the court on Van Den Heuvel's second motion for compassionate release under 18 U.S.C. § 3582. That section grants the court authority to reduce a defendant's sentence where "extraordinary and compelling reasons warrant such a reduction." This is not such a case.

Van Den Heuvel's crimes were serious. They were the culmination of a long track record of manipulating, exploiting, and defrauding others to fuel his high-end lifestyle. The fact that the losses total some 9.8 million dollars reflects the scope and magnitude of his fraud. In support of his motion for compassionate release, Van Den Heuvel cites his age (67), history of health issues, including diabetes, being in a wheelchair, and a lack of care within the bureau of prisons. He claims that, in the current climate with the COVID-19 pandemic, these conditions amount to extraordinary and compelling reasons for a reduction in his sentence.

Van Den Heuvel is currently held at FPC Duluth. According to U.S. Probation, there are no listed inmates or staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 at that location. Probation further informs the court that prison records indicate that Van Den Heuvel has been sanctioned for phone abuse and being absent from his assignment. The medical records from the institution indicate that Van Den Heuvel experienced a callous on his foot that cracked and required wound care. He was non-compliant with the care, as he was told to avoid walking on his foot. He was given a wheelchair at the time, but no longer needs the wheelchair. In addition, Van Den Heuvel is reported as being non-compliant with his diet and exercise program. He is gaining weight and his insulin dose continues to rise.

Under these circumstances, the court concludes that Van Den Heuvel's situation does not constitute extraordinary and compelling reasons for reduction of his sentence. It appears that the Bureau of Prisons is more than able to meet his health care needs, and that his difficulties in this regard seem primarily due to his own non-compliance. The Bureau of Prisons has been attempting, with extraordinary care, to control any outbreaks of the COVID-19 virus within its institutions and, at least so far, seems to have been successful at FPC Duluth. Under these circumstances, the court concludes that the defendant's motion for compassionate release should be and hereby is denied.

SO ORDERED at Green Bay, Wisconsin this 26th day of May, 2020.

s/ William C. Griesbach
William C. Griesbach, District Judge
United States District Court