

admitted in federal court that he stole more than \$300,000 from a doctor's office in a check forgery scheme, assisted by a woman who worked in the office. He pleaded guilty to health care fraud and aggravated identity theft.

The woman, Catherine Nell Williams, formerly known as Catherine Rittenhouse, pleaded guilty as well and will be sentenced today. The two had a relationship that produced a child, his attorney said.

Inman admitted that he used the identity of a Virginia Beach doctor to cash forged insurance checks that Williams had stolen from the office. They forged 590 checks totaling \$308,000, court records say.

Inman was convicted in 1976 of killing his 2-year-old son in New York by kicking the boy in the stomach. He served about 18 months in prison for that crime. He also served about two years in prison after a 1991 conviction for molesting two children in Virginia Beach.

Because those crimes were so old, that part of his criminal history did not count toward calculating his penalty under federal sentencing guidelines. Otherwise he could have faced considerably more prison time, a prosecutor said.

"He has no respect for the law," Assistant U.S. Attorney Randy Stoker told the judge. "What I submit to the court is that it's time. It's time for Mr. Inman to do some serious time."

Inman's attorney, Andrew Protogyrou, tried to shift some blame to Money Mart, the check cashing service Inman used. The company made it easy for Inman to cash the forged checks by not requiring proof of identity, he said, calling such action "willful blindness."

Inman set up an account with Money Mart using only the business license from the doctor's practice, which Williams had taken, Protogyrou said.

Inman then cashed forged insurance checks that Williams had taken from the practice, Stoker said. Williams, the practice's bookkeeper, was able to cover up the losses to the office.

Inman, a Vietnam veteran who was wounded in the war, told the judge he tried not to get involved but said he was forced by Williams in order to keep their relationship intact.

"The only thing I can say is that I'm sorry," he said.

U.S. District Judge Arenda Wright Allen also ordered Inman to repay the \$308,000.

Allen said Inman has been nothing but "a taker" all his adult life.

"It was just brazen," she said. "I think it's just terrible."