

Mesa man enters plea in ID theft case

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PHOENIX (AP) —

A Mesa man has pleaded guilty to stealing the identity of an Army soldier stationed in Iraq, taking at least \$6,000 from the victim's bank account and buying a truck in his name.

Prosecutors say 22-year-old Richard L. Schrodt faces up to 13 years in prison after entering into a plea agreement. He's scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 1 in Maricopa County Superior Court.

The Arizona Republic says Schrodt pleaded guilty to one felony count of theft by means of transportation and two felony counts of forgery in exchange for other felony charges being dropped.

Mesa police arrested Schrodt on Aug. 16. Police learned that he attempted to finance a new pickup truck using the identity of Richard Burke, a high school acquaintance. They say Schrodt looked similar to Burke and obtained a duplicate driver's license.