



# MR. DEAD

*Bob Rains*

*Pair wheels dead man to store to cash his Social Security check, police say.*  
ASSOCIATED PRESS, Jan. 8, 2008.

A corpse is a corpse, of course, of course,  
A government check he cannot endorse,  
That is, of course, unless the corpse  
Is the clever Mr. Dead.

When his Social Security check arrived,  
The recipient had not survived.  
His buddies nevertheless contrived  
That he sign it, Mr. Dead.

They strapped him into an office chair,  
To the check cashier they did repair.  
Their efforts got them both nowhere  
Because of Mr. Dead.

Their little scheme was to no avail  
Because his head did flop and flail,  
So they were carted off to jail,  
But not our Mr. Dead.

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*Bob Rains is a professor, versifier, and fabulist at the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law. His illustrated book of legal fables, TRUE TALES OF TRYING TIMES, is available at [www.willowcrossingpress.com](http://www.willowcrossingpress.com).*

*Bob Rains*

Even a holder in due course  
Negotiable instruments can't endorse  
Once he's transformed into a corpse.  
Just ask our Mr. Dead.

POSTSCRIPT

The denouement I can now confide.  
A soft judge has let the matter slide.  
The state couldn't prove when he had died –  
Too bad for Mr. Dead.<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> See Christine Hauser, *Check Cashing With Corpse? Without Proof, Case Is Closed*, N.Y. TIMES, Apr. 23, 2008, at A21.



WebCrims

Charge Detail

Defendant Detail

Appearance Detail Close

NEW YORK Criminal Court  
Docket 2008NY002468  
Defendant OHARE, JAMES P

Law Code and Code Section/Subsection	PL 110-155.25 00
Charge Detail	B Misdemeanor, 1 count, Not an arrest charge, Arraignment charge Description: ATTEMPTED PETIT LARCENY
Disposition/Sentence	

Law Code and Code Section/Subsection	PL 170.10 01
Charge Detail	D Felony, 1 count, Not an arrest charge, Arraignment charge Description: FRGRY:DEED WL CODICIL ETC
Disposition/Sentence	

Law Code and Code Section/Subsection	PL 170.25 00 *** TOP CHARGE ***
Charge Detail	D Felony, 1 count, Not an arrest charge, Arraignment charge Description: POSSES FORGD INSTRMNT-2ND
Disposition/Sentence	

Law Code and Code Section/Subsection	PHL 4200 01
Charge Detail	Unclassified Misdemeanor, 1 count, Not an arrest charge, Arraignment charge Description:
Disposition/Sentence	