

Mint warns consumers about 'Liberty Dollars' Justice Department calls use illegal

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A consumer alert was posted on the U.S. Mint's Web site Sept. 13 warning the public against the use of Liberty Dollar gold and silver medals after prosecutors with the U.S. Department of Justice determined their use as circulating money constitutes a federal crime.

The private Liberty Dollar metallic currency is espoused by the National Organization for the Repeal of the Federal Reserve Act (NORFED), based since its establishment in 1998 in Evansville, Ind.

Michael Johnson, the executive director for NORFED, doing business as the American Liberty Dollar, denies the U.S. Mint's allegations in a statement released the day after the Mint posted the consumer alert on its Web site.

"Basically, the Liberty Dollar is doing for the Federal Reserve what Federal Express did for the U.S. Postal Service – it brought competition and it went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to prove its position," Johnson said. "We are prepared to do the same if necessary. We would like to hear from the U.S. Department of Justice prosecutor(s). Who and where are they?"

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