

Former New York Mets player Lenny Dykstra rips government's case as 'egregious abuse of power'

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Andrew Savulich/News

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LOS ANGELES -- Ex-Met [Lenny Dykstra](#) has a new home base - one he can't leave without court permission.

The home-run hero of the 1986 World Series appeared in federal court Wednesday and got his \$150,000 bail reduced under a new agreement that includes house arrest at a friend's home in [West Hollywood](#).

Dykstra, formally indicted last Friday for bankruptcy fraud, now will move from his assistant's house in [Riverside County](#) and into a new pad with friend [Michael Butler](#). Under the terms of his bail, he can only leave for pre-approved activities such as work, church and mandatory drug testing, the judge said.

Butler said he's known Nails for years but declined to comment.

The judge approved the lower \$105,000 bail amount after Dykstra's ace lawyer [Mark Werksman](#) complained prosecutors rejected the applications of multiple friends willing to sign promissory notes.

Contrary to reports, actor [Charlie Sheen](#) never shelled out a dime, the lawyer said.

Dykstra even got permission to travel to [Maryland](#) next week to visit his son Cutter, a player on a minor league baseball team.

An Assistant U.S. Attorney asked the judge to place Dykstra in a halfway house or slap him with an electronic monitoring bracelet in lieu of the extra bail money, but Werksman got the judge to agree to house arrest instead.

According to prosecutors, the former All-Star player, 48, embezzled \$400,000 worth of items from his \$18 million mansion once owned by hockey great [Wayne Gretzky](#).

Dykstra said the government's case against him is the real fraud.

"It's an egregious abuse of power," he said outside court. "I have attempted to work with the trustee to pay the creditors, but they weren't interested."

"Everything I had was taken from me, ripped apart to line their pockets," he said.

Dykstra was arrested on suspicion of grand theft auto last month as part of a separate sting conducted by [Los Angeles Police](#).

The Los Angeles District Attorney asked for more investigation, so the broke baller was handed over to the [FBI](#) after several days bouncing from jail to jail.

His lawyer said he was "caged" like an animal.

"All they've done is make me want to fight harder," Dykstra said.

The charge of bankruptcy fraud carries a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison.

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