

# DAILY NEWS

Sam Israel, hedge fund swindler who staged phony suicide, escapes prison, gets head examined

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Sam Israel in 2005.

Swindler [Samuel Israel](#) has managed to put off being sent to the Big House - again.

A federal judge Tuesday ordered Israel be shipped to a medical prison facility in [North Carolina](#) for 90 days to get his head straight.

"It's appropriate and in Mr. Israel's best interests to get to the bottom of what's ailing him," federal [Judge Kenneth Karas](#) said.

A painkiller addict, Israel has been deemed incompetent to enter a plea for going on the lam and faking suicide to dodge a 20-year jail term.

Israel showed up in [White Plains](#) federal court with a heavily bandaged right hand. His lawyer, [Barry Bohrer](#), said it was broken, but wouldn't say what happened.

Last month, Bohrer told the court Israel's mental problems - apparently caused by his drug addiction - might have been getting worse.

Israel, 49, of [Armonk](#), was supposed to report to prison June 9 for bilking investors out of a staggering \$450 million. He pleaded guilty in 2005.

Instead, Israel abandoned his SUV at a [Hudson River](#) bridge with the words "Suicide is Painless" etched into the dust on the hood - and hid out in a \$40-a-night [Massachusetts](#) campground.

After 23 days on the lam, Israel turned himself with the help of his mother, who brokered his surrender. He faces an additional 10 years in jail for his aborted escape.