



News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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DES Office of Inspector General Investigation Leads to Indictment of Cordes Lakes Husband and Wife *Food Stamp and Social Security Fraud of nearly \$15,000*

PHOENIX – The Department of Economic Security’s (DES) Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced the Arizona State Grand Jury indictment of William Grant Kingsley and Sandra Lynn Kingsley of Cordes Lakes, Arizona, for one count of Theft, a Class 3 Felony, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-1802; and two counts of Unlawful Use of Food Stamps, a Class 6 Felony, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-3701.

“Benefits fraud is not a victimless crime,” said Director Timothy Jeffries. “Families in need of assistance pay the price when the system is abused. The DES OIG remains vigilant in uncovering illegal activity and holding individuals accountable on behalf of the State of Arizona. I’d like to thank the Social Security Administration for collaboration on this investigation which led to the indictment.”

It is alleged that between February 1, 2014, and April 30, 2015, Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley received DES Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. During that time, the couple failed to include income they received from the Social Security Administration (SSA) on behalf of Sandra Kingsley’s brother, Thomas Huff.

The DES OIG and the SSA investigated allegations that Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley provided false information to DES in order to obtain food stamp benefits for which they were not entitled; and failed to report to the SSA the death of Sandra Kingsley’s brother for whom Sandra was the caregiver. The SSA investigation determined that Thomas Huff, brother of Sandra Kingsley, passed away on January 10, 2014, and that neither Sandra nor William Kingsley notified the SSA. The SSA continued to deposit Mr. Huff’s money into a bank account by direct deposit. Due to the fraudulent misrepresentation by both William and Sandra Kingsley, the State of Arizona suffered a loss of \$3,407 to DES in food stamp funds, and \$11,584 to the SSA.

The Kingsleys confessed to investigators that Thomas Huff, Sandra’s brother, had passed away on January 10, 2014, and that they failed to notify the SSA of his death. They admitted they used a debit card issued to Mr. Huff to withdraw money from a Wells Fargo account. In addition, the Kingsleys admitted they failed to report this additional income to DES on their application for food stamp benefits.

Juan J. Arcellana, DES Inspector General, was pleased with the outcome of this case, as yet another fraudulent scheme has been thwarted. Additionally, the Inspector General was grateful for the joint effort between the DES Office of Inspector General and the Social Security Administration. “Through the combined efforts of these two departments, we successfully put an end to a fraudulent scheme by a married couple who wrongfully took public funds to which they were not entitled. The investigators exercised extraordinary patience in this matter, and are to be commended for their diligence.”

“The Social Security Administration’s Office of the Inspector General is committed to pursuing those who violate the public trust,” said Robb Stickley, Special Agent in Charge of the San Francisco Field Division, responsible for Arizona. “We will continue to uphold the integrity of social security benefit programs, which are a lifeline for so many Americans and their families.”

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The Arizona Department of Economic Security makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.

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