



# News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 23, 2016

MEDIA CONTACT  
Office of Communications  
602-542-4296  
[PIO@azdes.gov](mailto:PIO@azdes.gov)

## **DES Office of Inspector General Announces Conviction for Food Stamp, AHCCCS, and Social Security Fraud** *Yavapai County resident Vernall Molton*

**PHOENIX** — Director Timothy Jeffries announced today the recent conviction of Ms. Vernall Molton of Yavapai County, for fraudulent activity involving food stamps, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), and social security benefits. Beginning on or about March 2009 and continuing through approximately June 2013, Ms. Molton committed forgery and other falsifications to illegally obtain food stamps, AHCCCS, and social security benefits.

"This agency is ardently committed to justice and dedicated to the rule of law," said Director Timothy Jeffries. "It is our honorable obligation to protect taxpayer funds. I continue to give my full support to our DES Office of Inspector General to vigorously pursue and bring to justice all individuals who commit fraud and steal from those in need."

"The Office of Inspector General will continue to work vigorously to maintain the integrity of DES programs and services," said Inspector General Juan J. Arcellana. "This investigation, and the resulting criminal sentence, is an example of the hard work of all those committed to combatting the efforts of those who seek to defraud the State of Arizona."

On April 9, 2014, Ms. Molton was indicted on two counts of Fraudulent Schemes and Artifices, two counts of Theft, five counts of Forgery, and one count of Unlawful Use of Food Stamps. The investigation that led to the indictment began with the DES Office of Inspector General, Office of Special Investigations and later involved a partnership with investigators from Social Security Administration and AHCCCS. She submitted false information to the three programs in order to unlawfully obtain benefits totaling \$115,115.87.

On June 1, 2016, Ms. Molton pleaded guilty in Yavapai County Superior Court to two counts of Fraudulent Schemes and Artifices and two counts of Forgery. She was sentenced to five years in prison (Arizona Department of Corrections) and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$115,115.87. Ms. Molton was arrested recently on an outstanding warrant, having attempted to evade justice by hiding on the tribal lands of Arizona.

*To report abuse of food stamps or other DES public benefits, call the Department's toll free hotline at 1-800-251-2436, or locally at 602-542-9449*

###

**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.**

Visit our website at <https://des.az.gov> and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)