



# News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **DES Office of the Inspector General Investigation Leads to Successful Multi-Agency Bust** *Suspected fraud in the amount of \$2.8M*

**PHOENIX** – DES Director Timothy Jeffries today announced the Office of the Inspector General, Office of Special Investigation unit (OSI) partnered with the Arizona Attorney General’s Office and Pima County Sheriff’s Department in a \$2.8 million dollar money laundering, drug trafficking and fraud of DES and AHCCCS benefits case.

A total of seven search warrants were served today, six in Tucson and one in Casa Grande. The execution of the warrants resulted in four arrests. In addition, marijuana was found at three separate locations, as well as a stolen firearm. A total of nine DES clients involved are suspected of committing food stamp fraud totaling \$40K and AHCCCS fraud of \$102K.

“I am honored to represent the DES Office of Inspector General,” said Director Timothy Jeffries. “Each day, our investigators are reviewing and uncovering information that is crucial to future investigations. I’d like to thank our partners in the law enforcement community and the Arizona Attorney General’s Office for their exemplary leadership.”

“I am extremely proud of the work that our investigators perform on a daily basis,” said Inspector General Juan J. Arcellana. “They are tireless in their efforts. This case exemplifies our ongoing commitment to maintaining the integrity of DES programs.”

An investigation was initiated by an OIG/OSI Investigator in September 2014. This investigation evolved into a joint criminal investigation with the Tucson Arizona Attorney General’s Office (AGO) involving money laundering and DES fraud. Bank documents were obtained and analyzed for money laundering and benefits fraud.

In February 2015, it was established that both Pima County Sheriff’s Department (PCSD) and the FBI had simultaneous investigations with the main targets involving drug trafficking and illegal firearms. The investigation continued and grew with combined efforts from all agencies. Drug trafficking was established along with more DES clients’ involvement.

The investigation is ongoing.

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