



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2007-03-0062

November 20, 2007

EBT FRAUD IN ALLEN COUNTY

Indiana Inspector General David O. Thomas and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by Special Agent Darrell Boehmer and FSSA Internal Investigators Wendell Hoskins and Sharon Kahoe, report as follows:

This case involves a public assistance caseworker, Natasha Wilson, from the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) in Allen County. Wilson was assigned to distribute FSSA public assistance monies to the public but became a suspect in the theft of these monies. Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Special Agent Darrell Boehmer was assigned to investigate and worked with FSSA Investigators Wendell Hoskins and Sharon Kahoe.

Wilson was first suspected of stealing FSSA money through an audit that revealed fictitious accounts she monitored for the distribution of public assistance monies within the Allen County Office. Investigator Hoskins initially spoke with Wilson. In that conversation, Wilson asked Hoskins if she was going to be charged and stated that three other people at the local office were committing this type of fraud, one of these persons being Jennifer Daugherty who was also criminally charged in Allen County for similar conduct.

The investigation also revealed physical evidence against Wilson. For example, Wilson's former boyfriend was included in an application for public assistance. Wilson created this account and added eleven (11) fictitious people to this same household to increase the amount of benefits that could be diverted to the account. On another case, Wilson kept open a case that should have been closed and added six fictitious persons to the household to increase the money diverted to that account. She also changed the address to arrange a later receipt of the EBT cards which permit the distribution of the public assistance money. On another case, Wilson kept open a case that should have been closed and also changed the address to facilitate her obtaining the public assistance fraudulently.

In addition to these computer records showing the above, video surveillance of Wilson was also obtained. These videos show Wilson using the fraudulent EBT cards at ATM machines and accessing the money. There is no plausible explanation why an FSSA caseworker should access public assistance with an EBT card.

This investigation was submitted to the Allen County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and an arrest warrant and felony criminal charges were promptly issued.

Dated this 20th day of November, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O. Thomas".

David O. Thomas, Inspector General