



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Sergeant Donna Black, P.I.O., 352-754-6830
Re: Exploitation of the Elderly in Excess of \$100,000
Date: April 15, 2011
Case#: 2011-08845

Defendant: THOMAS R. DOLLOFF, DOB 01/14/55, age 56
6091 Parnell Avenue
Spring Hill, Fl.

Charge: Exploitation of the Elderly in Excess of \$100,000.-- 1st Degree Felony

Victim: Edward M. Edwards, age 84

Hernando County Sheriff's William Horvath, in conjunction with Division of Family Service, was notified by the victim's daughter of a suspected fraud being perpetrated against her father by the above defendant. The victim's daughter, Cynthia Edwards, who lives out of state and holds the power of attorney for her father noticed some suspicious activity on her father's bank accounts beginning around January 31, 2011.

As the investigation unfolded, Detective Horvath learned that the defendant has been a neighbor of the victim for a number of years. The victim's health was rapidly declining in January, about the time the large withdrawals began. Bank records showed the defendant made checks payable to "CASH" in the amount of \$40,000 on January 31, 2011. Checks were also written payable to the defendant in the amount of \$15,000 on February 8th and 11th, respectively. In total, the defendant deposited \$70,000 into his personal Bank of America account.

On February 3, 2011, while the victim was in the hospital, the defendant took the victim's 1999 pickup truck, re-registered it in his name, and on the same date traded it for a 2003 pickup. The defendant used an additional \$9,000 in cash of the victim's money to pay for the new truck.

The Defendant was able to have a living will executed on February 7, 2011 with the defendant listed as the surrogate. The defendant also convinced the victim to change his

last Will and Testament reducing the benefit the victim's daughters would receive to a mere one dollar (\$1.00) each.

During the same period of time, the defendant coerced the victim into allowing him to become the victim's beneficiary and trustee to his entire bank accounts, all annuities and life insurance policies, the home and the entire contents of the residence.

On Wednesday, March 23, 2011, the defendant's bank account was frozen by the order of the Honorable Judge Stephen Rushing in hopes some of the victim's assets can be recovered. The estimated total amount of loss to the victim is approximately \$120,300.

The defendant was able to perpetrate this crime against this vulnerable 84 year old man who is suffering from aging issues, by convincing him that his daughters were planning to take everything from him and place him in an assisted living facility.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Al Nienhuis states, "We will not tolerate it when someone takes advantage of one of our County's senior citizens, period!"