



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Corporal Wendy McGinnis
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Angel Edmonds Arrested for Scamming \$57,000 from a 91 Year-Old Female

Date: August 2, 2011

Case#: 2011-24177

Arrestee: Angel Marie Edmonds DOB- 04/10/1975
10494 Parkside Ct.
Spring Hill, Florida 34608

Charges: Organized Fraud in Excess of \$50,000
F.S.S 817.034.4 (a) (1) Bond \$50,000

3 Cts. Forgery and Uttering a Forged Instrument
F.S.S. 831.09 Bond \$6,000 Bond

3 Cts. Forgery
F.S.S 381.01 Bond \$6,000

In January, 2011, Angel Edmonds convinced the victim, 91 year-old Florence Butler, to assign her Power of Attorney (POA) even though the victim's step-daughter was assigned POA in 2008. Angel Edmonds was an independent care giver for Florence, she was not associated with a home health care agency. In addition, Angel convinced Florence to add her (Angel) to the Fiduciary Account Maintenance and Signature Form for the Bank account belonging to the victim. Angel was also made co-owner of Florence's bank safe deposit box in April, 2010. Since being authorized, Angel inspected the safe deposit box a total of 4 times. The first inspection was one day prior to having bank authorization. Since Angel began inspecting the safe deposit box, Florence's stocks and bonds have been missing. The worth of the stocks/bonds is unknown at this time.

Bank records prove that Angel Edmonds misappropriated \$57,071.73 from Florence Butler's bank account between June 7, 2011 and July 26, 2011 when the account was frozen by a court-appointed guardian. The misappropriated funds were spent on things such as concert tickets,

Sirius satellite radio, iTunes, movie rentals, The Disney Store, Toys R' Us, etc. There were also several cash withdrawals thru ATM and bank teller transactions. In June, 2011, Angel forged Florence's signature on a bank check belonging to Florence. The check was made payable to CASH in the amount of \$30,000. Angel used the check to obtain a Regions Bank certified check for the same amount made payable to Citrus Kia. The certified check was used to purchase a 2011 Kia SUV which is registered to Angel Edmonds. The vehicle was purchased on June 16, 2011, the same date as the forged check. Angel also forged two more checks from the same account in the amount of \$3,500 and \$5,000. Then, on July 18, 2011, Angel purchased a dog for \$1,022.90 and made several purchases for pet products and veterinary services for the canine adding up to several hundred dollars.

It is specifically stated in the Durable Power of Attorney document that Angel Edmonds agreed to act and perform in said fiduciary capacity consistent with the best interest of Florence Butler. The misappropriation of funds proves a clear course of conduct regarding the personal benefit of Angel, with no regard for the care and well-being of the victim, who in no way benefited from the more than \$57,000 that has been spent by Angel Edmonds.

After making initial contact with Angel on Friday, July 29, 2011, she made a concerted effort with her husband, Bennett Edmonds, to hide the Kia SUV by transferring the title of the Kia into his name and then selling said vehicle to CarMax in Tampa on August 1, 2011. CarMax was notified and a stop payment was placed on the check paid to Bennett Edmonds in the amount of \$22,000. CarMax was very cooperative and is currently holding the vehicle for the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

"Victimizing our county's most vulnerable senior citizens will always result in a considerable response from my office" Said Sheriff Al Nienhuis.

An agent with the United States Secret Service Economic Crimes Task Force has assisted in successfully completing this investigation.

Investigators are continuing their investigation for Angel's involvement into dealing in stolen property and tampering with evidence (the 2011 Kia).

On August 01, 2011, Angel Edmonds was arrested on numerous warrants and transported to the Hernando County Jail where she is being held on a \$62,000 bond.