



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: Pest Control Technician Arrested for Grand Theft While Spraying For Bugs

Date: September 6, 2011

Case#: 2011-29297

Arrested: Edward Peterson, DOB 10/14/67
11518 Sheffield Rd.
Brooksville, Florida 34608

Charge: Grand Theft F.S.S. 812.014 (\$2,000 Bond)

On June 18, 2011, Edward Peterson, a former employee of Massey Pest Control, was spraying a customer's house when he stole a large amount of gold jewelry (approximately \$5,000 worth) from the customer's bedroom. The victim recently realized her jewelry was missing and knew the pest control technician was the only person who had access to the gold. Subsequently the victim contacted a supervisor at Massey Pest Control to complain about the theft. Edward did not admit to his supervisor that he had committed the theft, but agreed to repay the victim \$5,000. On September 1, 2011 Edward paid his boss \$1,000 towards the \$5,000 as restitution.

The supervisor at Massey Pest Control contacted the Hernando County Sheriff's Office to report the incident. Edward was later interviewed by investigators and admitted that he did take a large amount of gold jewelry from the victim's residence while he was providing pest control services. Edward advised that he sold the jewelry to a gold buyer located on Mariner Blvd for \$2,500, but he was not given a receipt for the sale of the jewelry. Further investigation revealed that Edwards has had several pawn transactions in Hernando County from December 2010 thru April 2011, for jewelry.

Edward admitted that most of the pawned jewelry was stolen from customer's houses, but he could not remember which customers he stole the jewelry from. Investigators followed up with the supervisor at Massey Pest control, who was willing to cooperate and provide the Sheriff's Office with a list of Edward's customers going back to December 2010.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis said, "One of the most gratifying things we do in law enforcement is having the ability to solve a crime before the victim reports it. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office will be going the extra mile in an attempt to locate additional victims who may not even realize at this point that they have been victimized. If we are also able to get any sentimental items back to the rightful owners that would be an additional victory for us and the victims. This case also shows how crime rate can increase as a result of good investigative skills."

If any Massey Pest Control clients believe they may have been victimized, they are encouraged to contact Detective Mike Little with the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830.

Edward Peterson was arrested and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center for Grand Theft. Edward was later released after he posted a \$2,000 bond.

If you wish to remain anonymous or to be eligible for a reward, call the Hernando County Crime Stoppers toll free number 1-866-990-8477 or you may email your tip by clicking below. <http://www.hernandosheriff.org/Tips/> *You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.*