



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Son Arrested for Stealing More Than \$100,000 from Father

Date: June 13, 2017

In October 2015, Vincent Caliendo obtained Power of Attorney over his father, Bernard Caliendo, as Bernard had been diagnosed with early-stage dementia. During this time, Bernard continued to care for himself and pay his own bills.

On 03-28-16, Bernard noticed discrepancies in his bank accounts. It was later discovered and confirmed through investigation, that Vincent Caliendo had withdrawn a total of \$105,888.99 from Bernard's checking and savings accounts.

Several transactions of up to \$1,500 were made between 03-22-16 and 03-28-16 involving monies being electronically transferred from Bernard's bank accounts into Vincent's bank account. On 03-29-16, Vincent withdrew \$100,863.67 from Bernard's bank account and was issued a cashier's check. The withdrawal was made at Wells Fargo Bank in Spring Hill. The same check was then deposited into Vincent's checking account at Wells Fargo Bank in Clermont, FL.

Vincent's bank records, obtained via subpoena, show expenditures such as \$218.80 at various restaurants, \$1,064.28 for hotels, \$1,902.37 at various retailers and gas stations, \$482.92 for car insurance and cell phone bills, and \$12,460. withdrawn from ATMs or inside Wells Fargo branches. Investigation revealed that none of these transactions were for the benefit of Bernard Caliendo.

Prior to any money transfers, Vincent's Wells Fargo checking account had a negative balance of \$3.09.

At the time Vincent deposited the check he requested the full amount in cash. The bank was unable to fulfill the request and had to order the funds. On 04-04-16, Vincent was given \$10,000. On 04-06-16 Vincent returned to the same bank and was requested the remaining \$89,472.73 in cash.

Due to the diligence of the Wells Fargo staff, notes had been placed in Vincent's accounts (and Bernard's accounts) regarding the criminal investigation. The Clermont Police Department responded to the Wells Fargo Bank and seized the cash from Vincent before he left the premises.

On 04-20-16 a seizure warrant was served at the Clermont Police Department for the \$89,472.73 in cash that they collected from Vincent Caliendo. Those funds were returned to Bernard Caliendo in the form of a check issued by the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

Detectives also learned that Vincent also attempted to obtain a "reverse mortgage" on Bernard's residence. The final documents were sent for signature but were never completed because they were mailed to Bernard's residence. Vincent attempted to gain entry into the residence on 04-09-16, meeting with negative results. It is believed Vincent planned to get the documents, sign and return them. Vincent was unaware the Power of Attorney had been rescinded.

Based on the information gather during the investigation, detectives obtained a warrant for the arrest of Vincent Caliendo, charging him with **Exploitation of an Elderly Person or Disabled Adult** and **Grand Theft**.

Vincent Caliendo was located and arrested in Lexington County, South Carolina on 05-30-17 as a result of a **Crime Stopper tip**.

Vincent James Caliendo W/M DOB/12-02-1977 was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center on 06-11-17. His bond was set at \$20,000. He remains in jail at this time.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.