



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Couple Arrested for Exploitation of the Elderly

**Date:** March 5, 2018

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On or about 09-22-17, Hernando County Sheriff's Office Economic Crimes detectives received information from the Department of Children and Families Elder Abuse Unit that 92 year-old Lorraine Miller was being financially exploited by her son Larry Miller, and his wife, Lynda Miller.

Detective Irene Gray made contact with Lorraine Miller. Lorraine was unable to answer any questions about her finances or who, if anyone, had a Power of Attorney for her.

Investigation revealed that Lorraine's son, Dwayne Miller, did have a Power of Attorney for his mother since 1988 and has always been on her bank accounts.

Dwayne Miller told detectives, via sworn interview, that he recently learned that funds were missing from his mother's account. After examining the bank statement, Dwayne discovered that his brother Larry was using Lorraine's bank account as his own. Larry Miller also removed Dwayne's name from the account, adding his own name.

Lorraine received a letter from Social Security indicating that she now had a new, on-line account. Dwayne was perplexed, as his 92 year-old mother has never used a computer. Dwayne promptly contacted Social Security, only to learn that an attempt had been made to have Lorraine's Social Security deposited into Larry Miller's new Region's Bank account.

Detective Gray issued subpoenas to Region's Bank for account information. Bank documents confirmed that Larry withdrew funds from his mother's account, opened his own Regions Bank account, and deposited the funds into his new account.

Larry also intercepted an insurance check, payable to Lorraine Miller, in the amount of \$12,480.97 and deposited the funds into his Regions Bank account. The total amount of funds taken and deposited into Larry Miller's account was \$34,641.92.

As Detective Gray reviewed Lorraine's bank statements, she discovered 21 checks that were written out to Larry and/or Lynda Miller from February 2015 through July 2017. After July, a debit card was issued, and was being used to make purchases and pay for services. The total of funds taken through unauthorized checks was \$19,585.

Lorraine Miller has never used a debit card on her account, and had no idea that a debit card had been issued for the account. Payments were made to accounts belonging to Larry and Lynda Miller, along with Botox treatments for Lynda Miller. The total amount of unauthorized debit card purchases was \$3,485.18

Detective Gray then interviewed Larry and Lynda Miller. Both Larry and Lynda confirmed that Lorraine had been suffering from memory loss for approximately two years, and has been incapacitated since the summer of 2017. Larry and Lynda both told detective Gray that "Lorraine remembers things for about two seconds."

The grand total of misappropriated funds, taken or used without authorization, was \$57,712.11.

Both Larry Miller and Lynda Miller were arrested on 03-02-18. Both were charged with Exploitation of the Elderly. Their bonds were set at \$5,000 each. Both have bonded out of jail.

Larry Miller volunteered at the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, serving as an Auxiliary Deputy. Miller started volunteering in this capacity on 10-25-16. On 03-02-18, he was terminated from his volunteer position by Sheriff Al Nienhuis.

#### **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.**