



U.S. Department of Justice

*Margaret M. Chiara
United States Attorney
Western District of Michigan*

5th Floor, The Law Building
330 Ionia Avenue, NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Mailing Address:
United States Attorney's Office
Post Office Box 208
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0208

Telephone (616) 456-2404
Facsimile (616) 456-2408

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Hagen W. Frank
Assistant United States Attorney
(616) 456-2404

Grand Rapids, Michigan – July 5, 2006 – United States Attorney Margaret M. Chiara announced that, on June 30, 2006, four defendants charged in a twelve-count Indictment for offenses arising from their financial exploitation of an elderly woman who once resided in an adult-care facility they owned and operated in East Lansing, Michigan, entered guilty pleas before U.S. District Judge David M. Lawson. The defendants are: Jeanne M. Miller, age 40, of Ovid, Michigan; her husband, Charles B. Miller, age 56, also of Ovid, Michigan; Kenneth M. Goff, age 64, of Harrison, Michigan; and his wife, Dolores I. Goff, age 67, also of Harrison, Michigan.

Investigation by the U.S. Secret Service and the Michigan State Police resulted in the Millers and Goffs being charged in March 2006 for offenses including conspiracy, bank fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud, credit-card fraud, identity theft, aggravated identity-theft, and fraudulent cashing of U.S. Savings Bonds. All four defendants pled guilty to engaging in a conspiracy to defraud Phoebe Carol Ann Shull between August 2003 and February 2005, and all four admitted to committing specific acts of bank fraud, identity theft, wire fraud, and mail fraud in furtherance of that conspiracy. Charles Miller and Jeanne Miller also pled guilty to a count charging them with committing the Federal felony of identity theft, and Jeanne Miller pled guilty to an additional

count charging her with the felony of aggravated identity theft. As a result, each of the Goffs faces a maximum sentence of five years in Federal prison, Charles Miller faces a maximum of ten years, and Jeanne Miller faces a mandatory minimum sentence of two years and a maximum of ten years. Additionally, all four will be ordered to repay the funds they stole from Ms. Shull.

As part of their plea agreements with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Millers and Goffs admitted to stealing as much as \$200,000 from Ms. Shull before her death in February 2005. All four also admitted to having exploited their care-giver relationship with Ms. Shull, who suffered from severe dementia, to unlawfully enrich themselves by, at times individually and at times collectively: using her existing credit card accounts to buy things for themselves; opening new credit accounts in her name and then using those accounts for their own benefit; obtaining new-car financing in her name in order to purchase vehicles for themselves; using a fraudulent power-of-attorney to remove \$176,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds from Shull's safe-deposit boxes, cashing in \$50,000 of those bonds, and then spending the money on themselves; and obtaining funds from one or more of her bank accounts which they then spent on themselves.

The case was jointly investigated by Special Agent Jason Russell of the U.S. Secret Service and Detective Sergeant Frank Mraz of the Michigan State Police Major-Case Team. It is being prosecuted for the United States by Assistant U.S. Attorney Hagen W. Frank.

Sentencing is scheduled to occur before Judge Lawson on October 16, 2006, at the United States District Court in Lansing, Michigan.

END