



Office of the District Attorney
P. David Soares
6 Lodge Street
Albany, New York 12207
(518) 487-5460
(518) 487-5093 FAX

CONTACT: CECILIA WALSH (518) 275-4710
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Former US Postal Service Employee Indicted on Multiple Fraud and Grand Larceny Charges

*Defendant Allegedly Targeted Albany County Department of Social
Services and Capital District Habitat for Humanity*



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that SHANELL GARDNER, 36, of Troy, was arraigned before the Honorable Roger McDonough in the Supreme Court of Albany County this morning for multiple fraud and grand larceny charges.

A Grand Jury in Albany County indicted GARDNER of (1) Count of Welfare Fraud in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, (1) Count of Identity Theft in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, (2) Counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, both Class D Felonies, (1) Count of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a Class E Felony, (3) Counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, all Class D Felonies, and (1) Count of Attempted Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony.

The indictment alleges that between March 11, 2009 and August 31, 2011 in Albany County, the defendant wrongfully obtained in excess of \$50,000.00 in child care and food stamp benefits administered by the Albany County Department of Social Services by stealing the identity of a relative and claiming the relative was providing care to GARDNER's children when she was not. GARDNER wrongfully collected the child care payments made out to the relative and also obtained food stamp benefits she was not entitled to by concealing the ill-gotten income while claiming eligibility for food stamp benefits during the same period.

Additionally, the indictment alleges that on July 24, 2013, GARDNER attempted to wrongfully obtain a residential mortgage valued in excess of \$50,000.00 from the Capital District Habitat for Humanity by offering Habitat for Humanity three forged documents from the United States Postal Service that falsely represented her income and employment status.

GARDNER pleaded not guilty and was released under the supervision of the Albany County Probation Department.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Clark of the Financial Crimes Unit is overseeing the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

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All Individuals Are Presumed Innocent Until Proven Guilty