

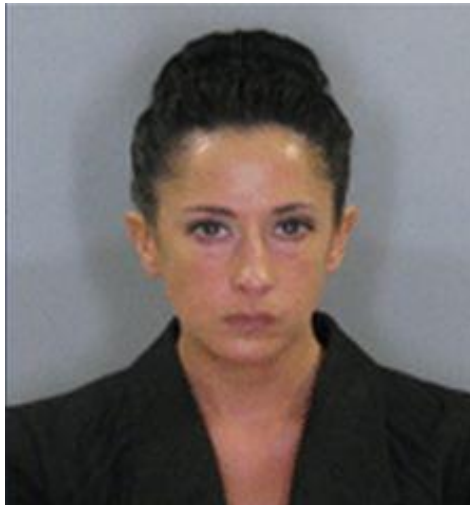


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Guilty Plea in \$70,000 Embezzlement Scheme

Defendant Offered Victims \$10,000 to Withhold Information from the Albany County District Attorney's Office



ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today HILLARY DOWNEY, 35, of Clifton Park, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C Felony, and (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Stephen Herrick in Albany County Court this morning.

In the summer of 2013, the defendant worked for Children's Place at the Plaza, a non-profit daycare in the City of Albany. The defendant falsified four checks and cashed them, totaling \$1,480. Additionally, the defendant stole \$9,567.80 in cash from that business by creating falsified receipts that would never be properly filed. The total amount stolen by the defendant totaled \$11,047.80. The defendant was subsequently fired from her position.

However, an investigation by the Bethlehem Police Department uncovered that between October 2013 and February 2014 the defendant, who was hired as a payroll account manager for Secure Solutions LLC, embezzled over \$72, 273.94 into her own personal account by falsifying business and payroll records.

In addition, when the defendant was confronted by these allegations by her company she offered them \$10,000 not to report her crime to the Albany County District Attorney's Office.

DOWNEY faces 3 to 9 years in State Prison when sentenced on May 15, 2014 for embezzling from Secure Solutions LLC. Additionally, the defendant faces a concurrent term of 2 to 6 years in State Prison for stealing from Children's Place at the Plaza.

The defendant must also pay restitution in the amount of \$72,273.94 to Secure Solutions LLC and \$11,047.80 to Children's Place at the Plaza, for a total of \$83,321.74.

The defendant remains in custody at the Albany County Correctional Facility to await sentencing.

Financial Crimes Bureau Chief Daniel Lynch is handling the prosecution of this case.

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

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