



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-06-0303

June 25, 2008

FSSA BARRED FOR WELFARE FRAUD

Inspector General Staff Attorney Kristi Shute, after an investigation by Special Agent Alan McElroy, reports as follows:

The purpose of this report is to document further action on this case by the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) and the State Ethics Commission (“SEC”).

This case was originally investigated by the OIG and submitted to the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office which resulted in the filing of criminal charges against Geraldine Harper. Criminal charges were issued for actions related to stealing public assistance funds while employed as a caseworker with the Family and Social Services Administration (“FSSA”). Subsequently, Harper pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Welfare Fraud, Corrupt Business Influence and Official Misconduct.

Harper participated in a criminal scheme to steal FSSA money. In short, Harper created false accounts normally set up for persons qualifying for food

stamp and TANF (temporary assistance for needy families) money. Harper accessed and stole money from these false accounts.

In addition to the criminal charging and conviction, the OIG filed an ethics complaint with the SEC against the Respondent. The Respondent admitted to this complaint. At the OIG's request, the SEC issued a penalty to the Respondent which included a decree barring the Respondent from further state employment. With criminal charges filed and an SEC decree which includes a permanent bar from state employment, this case is accordingly closed.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2008.

APPROVED BY:



David O. Thomas, Inspector General