INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-09-0485

March 13, 2008

MISUSE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MONEY

Inspector General David O. Thomas and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by Special Agent Dave Clark, report as follows:

This investigation involves the actions of Family of Social Services

Administration (FSSA) employee Antoinette Thacker (Antoinette), the mother of

Kimberly (Kimberly) Thacker. The allegations were that Antoinette made

misrepresentations in obtaining public assistance money.

Antoinette has been employed by FSSA for approximately 36 years. Her

daughter, Kimberly, also worked for the state as the Director of Programs at the

Indiana Women's Commission (IWC) until March of 2005, when she turned in

her resignation.[1] Even after leaving the state, Kimberly made public assistance

claims to Indiana. To assist Kimberly, Antoinette made various

misrepresentations to her daughter's (Kimberly's) social worker regarding

Kimberly's welfare benefit eligibility by stating that Kimberly did not work and

that Kimberly resided with her in Indiana when she did not. These

misrepresentations are reflected in letters written by Antoinette to the caseworker.

Because Antoinette Thacker's misrepresentations assisted in

inappropriately obtaining state funds, the public assistance monies, a complaint was filed on October 11, 2007 by the OIG with the State Ethics Commission, alleging a violation of 42 IAC 1-5-12, the use of state property rule.

A hearing was conducted on the complaint on February 14, 2008 with OIG Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer presenting the evidence for the OIG. On March 13, 2008, the SEC announced its decision finding that the complaint had been proved by the OIG. A fine of $2,800 was assessed by the SEC.

Dated this 13th day of March, 2008.

David O. Thomas, Inspector General

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[1] Kimberly Thacker was adjudged in violation of 42 IAC 1-5-12 in a separate complaint filed by the OIG for failing to deposit state funds with her agency.