



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2006-10-0287

December 20, 2006

IDENTITY THEFT

Inspector General David O. Thomas, after an investigation by Special Agent Mike Mischler, reports as follows:

This investigation involves the crime of identity theft by an employee of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

This investigation commenced when Tadd Stahl, Chief Information Security Office of the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT), provided information to Inspector General David Thomas in October of 2006 that victim Jane Doe¹ was being harassed by someone using a State of Indiana computer. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Special Agent Michael Mischler was assigned to investigate.

Victim Jane Doe reported that she was experiencing the following conduct from someone falsely using her identity. She received several anonymous

¹ The name of the victim, the name of the charged defendant and certain details of the investigation are deliberately omitted from this report to prohibit further victimization of Jane Doe.

harassing notes through the mail, she received bills from magazines demanding past due payment, her employer received an anonymous letter requesting the employer to fire Jane Doe, emails were being sent to people from Jane Doe's previous email account, Jane Doe was receiving anonymous harassing telephone calls, and Jane Doe had received Federal Express packages from Nigeria containing more than \$7000 worth of false money orders.

As part of the investigation, Tadd Stahl of IOT was able to trace the source of the false emails to a computer at a DNR facility. Names obtained from this computer were supplied to Jane Doe, and she stated she knew the Defendant. Jane Doe knew her because Jane Doe had dated her husband previously.

In addition to other computer forensic procedures which further identified the Defendant, the Defendant was interviewed by OIG Special Agent Mischler, OIG Special Agent Kristi Shute and DNR Investigator Zach Mathews on October 26, 2006. It was determined through this interview that the Defendant had been employed with the DNR for several years.

It was explained to the Defendant that she could leave anytime she wished. The Defendant was then confronted with the details of the identity theft. The Defendant admitted to the identity theft and stated the reason for doing it was in retaliation to Jane Doe dating the Defendant's husband several years ago. The Defendant admitted to signing Jane Doe up for the false subscriptions, telemarketers and fraudulent emails. The Defendant further admitted the ability to take over Jane Doe's computer email account after talking with a mutual friend who knew personal information about Jane Doe.

This information and the remainder of the investigation were submitted to the county Prosecuting Attorney's Office, resulting in the arrest of the Defendant and criminal charges of identity theft under IC 35-43-5-3.5, a class D Felony. These charges remain pending as of the date of this report.

Dated this 20th day of December, 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

David O. Thomas, Inspector General