



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2007-03-0055

April 25, 2007

FORT WAYNE FSSA CASEWORKER FRAUD

Inspector General David O. Thomas, after an investigation by Special Agent Darrell Boehmer and FSSA Investigators Wendell Hoskins and Sharon Kahoe, reports as follows:

This investigation involved Family Social Services Administration (FSSA) Caseworker Jennifer Daugherty, a Fort Wayne resident.

FSSA Investigators Wendell Hoskins and Sharon Kahoe discovered unusual public assistance Foodstamp and TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) activity by Fort Wayne FSSA caseworker Jennifer Daugherty. A caseworker supervises who qualifies for both types of public assistance and distributes to qualifying recipients an EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) card. This EBT card has authorized cash limits that may be accessed at an automatic teller machine at any bank. However, an electronic receipt is generated to the EBT computer program and provides the location where the card was used, the amount of the cash benefits obtained, the balance of benefits remaining on the card, and the date and time of the transaction.

Through the review of computer records and documents, the investigators were able to determine that FSSA caseworker Jennifer Daugherty was setting up fictitious public assistance accounts. She would then send the EBT cards to the home of her friend, Kelly Gorsuch. FSSA caseworker Jennifer Daugherty would then pick up the EBT cards and use them fraudulently, and then split the proceeds with her friend, Kelly Gorsuch. There is no reason for an FSSA caseworker to use the EBT card since the caseworker's only role is to properly distribute the card to the qualified recipients.

Interviews of witnesses were also conducted and FSSA caseworker Jennifer Daugherty admitted to Inspector General Special Agent Darrell Boehmer that she had set up the fictitious accounts.

The investigation was submitted to the Allen County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Jennifer Daugherty was charged on April 23, 2007 with three felony counts: (1) welfare fraud, a class C felony, (2) theft, a class D felony, and (3) official misconduct, a class D felony.

Kelly Gorsuch was also charged with welfare fraud and theft.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2007.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General