



## INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2009-11-0248

May 27, 2010

### DCS TEMPORARY EMPLOYEE FORGERY

*Inspector General Staff Attorney Todd Shumaker, after an investigation by Special Agent Alan McElroy, reports as follows:*

On November 20, 2009, a member of the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) contacted the Office of Inspector General (OIG) about the potential theft of child support warrants by a temporary DCS employee (Temp). Specifically, DCS discovered that two child support warrants totaling around \$3,100 (Warrants) had been cashed but had been reported by their intended recipients as missing.

OIG Special Agent Alan McElroy conducted interviews, reviewed documents, issued warrants, and found the following. The Temp served as a mailroom courier for DCS and was responsible for pulling specific warrants before they were mailed out. However, neither of the Warrants was ordered by DCS to be pulled. When DCS staff contacted the bank at which the Warrants had been deposited, they discovered the Warrants had been cashed at a check cashing store (Store) near the Temp's residence.

Special Agent McElroy obtained security camera footage from the Store of each of the Warrants being cashed and confirmed with DCS staff that the person in the images was the Temp.

The Temp was then interviewed to see if there was a plausible explanation for this activity, and the Temp admitted to Special Agent McElroy that he was the person in the security camera images cashing the Warrants and that he had no authority to do this.

On March 31, 2010 the Temp pled guilty to a single count of Forgery, a Class C Felony. He was sentenced to three years suspended and was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,269.48 and serve 545 days on probation.

Although the Temp worked for DCS, he was employed by a temporary services agency. Since the provisions in the Code of Ethics applying to such contractors do not apply in this instance, no ethics complaint will be filed as a result of this investigation. At this time and for these reasons, this case is closed.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.

APPROVED BY:



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David O. Thomas, Inspector General