



## PRELIMINARY INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2005-06-0303

December 29, 2006

### MARION COUNTY PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FRAUD - 4

*Inspector General David O. Thomas, after an investigation by Special Agent Alan McElroy and Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, reports as follows:*

This report addresses the arrest of defendant Darryl "Dion" Davis, criminally charged with the felony of welfare fraud on May 9, 2006, as a result of an Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation of Family of Social Services Administration (FSSA) Caseworkers Geraldine Harper and Mary Miracle. Both Harper and Miracle, as well as a Stephanie Russell, were charged and convicted of welfare fraud as a result of the initial OIG investigation. The investigation was then expanded, resulting in this additional arrest.

Public assistance benefits are usually distributed through an Electronic Benefits Transaction (EBT) card. FSSA caseworkers, such as Harper and Miracle, supervise the issuance and maintenance of these EBT cards. This EBT card is similar to an ATM card in that the welfare recipient may withdraw cash

from automatic teller bank machines. One of the benefits in issuing public assistance through EBT cards is that the cash withdrawal transactions are captured by the computer for later investigative purposes.

In this case, Darryl "Dion" Davis is a friend of Geraldine Harper and received from her an unauthorized EBT card. Davis lives at the same address as Harper's brother in Indianapolis. Davis received food stamp assistance from November of 2000 through February of 2001. In September of 2004, he re-applied for assistance. He was denied due to a prior drug felony conviction, and the FSSA sent a notice to Davis giving him this information. However, on May 2, 2005, Harper attempted to re-open Davis's food stamp case, and again it was denied with a notice sent to Davis. On May 3, 2005, Harper initiated another application for food stamps in the name of "Dion Davis". The birth-date and social security numbers used by Harper for this account, however, were false. The address given in the application is also Darryl Davis's address.

Charges remain pending at the time of this report.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006.



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David O. Thomas, Inspector General