



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2007-03-0062

December 17, 2008

EBT CONVICT BARRED FROM STATE EMPLOYMENT

Inspector General David O. Thomas and Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by FSSA investigators and Special Agent Darrell Boehmer and others, reports as follows:

This investigation involved the theft of funds from the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) by Respondent. She was employed as a caseworker with FSSA with the duties of distributing welfare benefits to qualifying recipients. These funds are provided through the federal Food Stamp and TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) programs.

The United States Food Stamp Program is a federal assistance program that provides food to deserving United States citizens. Benefits are distributed by the individual states, but the program is administered through the United States Department of Agriculture. TANF is another federal assistance program which provides cash assistance to indigent American families with dependent children. It is administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and these benefits are likewise distributed by the individual states through agencies such as FSSA.

An investigation was launched after an FSSA audit revealed suspicious

activity by Respondent. Instead of distributing welfare funds through EBT cards to deserving recipients, Respondent was stealing this money by using false identities.

The investigation was completed and submitted to the Allen County Prosecuting Attorney. Criminal charges were immediately filed, and Respondent was sentenced to incarceration on those charges.

This report covers the additional action taken by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) with the State Ethics Commission (SEC). A complaint against Respondent was filed by OIG with the SEC, alleging that Respondent violated the Use of State Property Rule in 42 IAC 1-5-12 of the Indiana Code of Ethics.

Respondent admitted to the violation of this ethics rule, and the SEC has now imposed the sanction of barring Respondent from any future employment with the State of Indiana by its authority in IC 4-2-6-12(7). This SEC finding was issued on December 2, 2008.

The Respondent having been criminally convicted and sentenced, and now barred from any future state employment by the SEC, this matter is now closed.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2008.



David O. Thomas, Inspector General