



PRESS RELEASE

Case #13-505423

Detectives Search for Additional Elder Abuse Victims

November 24, 2013—Washington County Detectives are searching for additional elder abuse victims following the repeated arrests of two Tualatin women.



Nichole Garlitz

Detectives believe that Nichole Garlitz, 43, and Kelly Dresser, 41, both of Tualatin, have been financially exploiting an 81 year-old Tualatin man since early 2011. Detectives arrested Ms. Garlitz three different times and Ms. Dresser four times between October and November 2013 related to this case.

Detectives believe sometime in 2011, the two women approached the victim in a Tualatin shopping center parking lot and struck up a friendship. An alert family member contacted the Sheriff's Office in April 2013 to report that they believed the women were keeping their father away from his family. A Sheriff's Deputy contacted the family and was told the two women seem to have taken over every aspect of the victim's life, including his finances.



Kelly Dresser

Washington County Property Crime Detectives were called to assist with this complex case. Washington County Adult Protective Services and the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Elder Abuse Coordinator were also brought in to assist the victim and his family. All cases involving abuse involving the elderly population in Washington County are assessed by the Elder Abuse Coordinator who specializes in assisting the victim and their family with the many county resources available.

Over the last several months, detectives were able to obtain search warrants and collect evidence to convince them that Ms. Garlitz and Ms. Dresser had stolen over \$80,000 in cash. Detectives also discovered that family heirloom jewelry, antique furniture, and tools that are unaccounted for. The victim's family informed detectives that the large farm that had been in the family for over 100 years was in jeopardy of being lost to Ms. Garlitz and Ms. Dresser.

Nichole Garlitz is currently lodged in the Washington County Jail, she is charged with multiple counts of Felony Criminal Mistreatment, Identity Theft, Felony Aggravated Theft, Violation of Release Agreement, and Possession and Distribution of Methamphetamine. She is being held on \$125,000 bail.

Kelly Dresser has been released from the Washington County Jail on bail. She faces charges of multiple counts of Felony Criminal Mistreatment, Identity Theft, Felony Aggravated Theft, Violation of Release Agreement, and Tampering with Evidence.

The Washington District Attorney will set a court date in the near future.

Sheriff's Detectives believe there may be additional victims of unreported crimes committed by Ms. Garlitz and Ms. Dresser. Detectives are seeking the public's help regarding this case. If you have any information, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 846-2500.

Washington County Detectives and Adult Protective Services often investigate cases where our elderly or disabled citizens are exploited or abused. Citizens can report possible abuse situations to the Sheriff's Office or their local law enforcement to report it.