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October 7, 2015

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

Re: State of Ohio vs. Susan J. Phillips, Case #14 CR 0219

Today Judge Charles S. Wittenberg sentenced Susan J. Phillips to a three (3) years of community control for her August 21, 2015 conviction for Complicity to Theft, a felony of the fifth degree. The conviction resulted from a BCI investigation into a theft of funds from SCAT in December 2013-January 2014. Earlier, Mrs. Phillips' son Michael Woodman was convicted of theft for his role in the theft.

The investigation was instituted when SCAT officials discovered over $6,500 had been transferred from an agency savings account into the personal checking account of Mrs. Phillips. Those funds were subsequently withdrawn by Mrs. Phillips via counter withdrawals and ATM transactions. The ATM card was also reportedly used by Mr. Woodman.

Judge Wittenberg imposed specific conditions for community control including payment of restitution to SCAT, payment of court costs, 100 hours of community service, and 45 days of electronic monitoring by the Seneca County Sheriff.

Prosecuting Attorney Derek DeVine commented after sentencing, "The SCAT organization was victimized by the actions of the Defendant and her son. I hope that the funds are repaid quickly and the organization is able to move forward with its important mission." When asked about the length of time between the offense (December 2013-January 2014), the indictment (August 2014) and today's sentencing, DeVine said: "Sometimes the wheels of justice move slowly, I'm pleased though that we were able to obtain a conviction and an order of restitution for SCAT."