

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Middle District of Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Leesburg Woman Charged With Fraud And Aggravated Identity Theft

Ocala, Florida – Acting United States Attorney Karin Hoppmann announces the return of an indictment charging Elizabeth Carol Winger (68, Leesburg) with three counts of aggravated identity theft and one count of unauthorized use of access devices. If convicted on all counts, Winger faces a maximum penalty of 16 years in federal prison.

According to court documents, between July 1, 2020, and February 28, 2021, Winger engaged in a scheme to collect unemployment benefits using the identities of others without their knowledge or consent. As part of the scheme, Winger attempted to steal more than \$11 million in unemployment benefits in the victims' names. She ultimately received more than \$500,000 in payments.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed one or more violations of federal criminal law, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Department of Labor – Office of Inspector General, and the Leesburg Police Department. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William S. Hamilton.

Topic(s):
Financial Fraud
Identity Theft

Component(s):
[USAO - Florida, Middle](#)