

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

August 8, 2013

NAVARRE WOMAN CHARGED WITH FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF DISABLED CLIENTS



The Residential Services Director of a local organization that works to help the disabled has been charged with 24 felony counts of exploiting her clients.

64-year old Linda Faye Walker-Hall of 1023 Jo Tam Lane in Navarre turned herself in today. Walker-Hall also is also charged with grand theft.

OCSO investigators say Walker-Hall was stealing money from twenty-four residential group home patients with Horizons in Fort Walton Beach.

Horizons managers became suspicious in April after spotting discrepancies while reviewing some monthly transaction reports for clients' personal allowance funds. They questioned Walker-Hall and also found policy violations involving receipts. In addition, when they asked Walker-Hall to retrieve the cash bag, Walker-Hall had the bag containing \$2900.00 at her home. The Department of Children and Families and the O-C-S-O were contacted and became involved in investigating the financial discrepancies.

OCSO investigators were able to determine that Walker-Hall was issued sixteen checks between January 2012 and April 2013 for the amount of \$43,677.16. After reviewing each residential group home client's spending reports, they discovered \$22,804.16 in unaccounted money.

Walker-Hall was arrested on twenty four counts of exploitation of disabled adults and grand theft.

Sheriff Larry Ashley said, "Countless people at Horizons have worked tirelessly on behalf of our disabled residents and it is indeed sad when one individual entrusted with assisting instead decides to take advantage of people and then work to hide her tracks. I want to applaud the managers who saw discrepancies and immediately took action to ensure a thorough investigation was conducted."

(Arrest report is attached.)



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the
Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal
opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY


WARRANT/OTTIC SERVED

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR007650

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO13OFF004181	Other No OCSO13CAD065980	OBTS
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	------

[SUSPECT]

Last First Middle Title Race Sex DOB Age Hgt Wgt
WALKER LINDA FAYE W F 11/15/1948 64 5'08" 190
Eyes Hair MNI Number SSN ID. No. St Type OCA/Agency ID
HAZ GRY OCSO03MNI006766  FL

Birth Location: City: County: State: FLORIDA Nation: UNITED STATES Citizenship: Address

1923 JO TAM LANE NAVARRE FL 32566

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: HORIZONS OF OKAL. CO., Job Title: RESIDENTIAL SERV DIR, Phone: (850)863-1530 Entered: 4/10/2003

123 TRUXTON AV Suite: FORT WALTON BEACH FL 32547

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

WALKER, LINDA

HALL, LINDA WALKER 11/15/1948

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 1/1/2013 14:22 to 4/25/2013 14:22 Lat / Long 30.4462 / -86.61594
No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
121 TRUXTON AV FORT WALTON BEAC FL 32547 2 - 14 - -

[CHARGES]

812.014.2b

LARC

LARC OVER 20000 DOLLARS UNDER 100000 DOLLARS

Counts	Level	Degree	GOC	UCR	NCIC	AON	Bond Amount
1	Felony	Second	Principal	260A		2399	

825.103.2c

CRIMES AGAINST PERSON

EXPLOITATION OF ELDERLY 100 DOLLARS OR MORE

Counts	Level	Degree	GOC	UCR	NCIC	AON	Bond Amount
24	Felony	Third	Principal	260A		7099	

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On 04/25/13, I was contacted by Department of Children and Families Adult Protective Investigator Scott Barlow in reference to intake report number 2013-114590-01, in which allegations were made that the Residential Services Director, Linda Walker-Hall, was stealing money from twenty-four (24) residential group home patient at Horizon's, 123 Truxton Avenue, Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Contact was made with Chief Operating Officer Melissa "Missy" Rogers and Chief Financial Officer Holly Kaspar. They provided statements as to the procedure on how Horizon's operates in regards to the residential group home patients finances: Around the first of each month Horizon's is paid by Social Security for each client. These costs are to pay for the housing and personal allowance for each client. Clients receive between \$90 to \$200 a month in personal allowance depending on their financial background. The personal allowance is to be used to pay for doctor co-pays, toiletries, outings, and any other items the clients wish to purchase. All twenty-four clients personal allowance money is placed onto one check written to Walker-Hall. She cashes the check and is supposed to distribute the money to the group home managers when they ask for additional money for each client. At the end of each month it was required for the group home managers to turn in the binder containing Spending Reports to each client detailing what money was received by the

COPY

group home managers and they money spent for each client per month. Any receipts were supposed to be attached to the Spending Reports to verify each purchase. It was policy of Horizon's that each time money is received by the group home managers or an items is purchased that it is initialed on the spending report. Walker-Hall would initial that she provided the group home manager any money.

Kaspar explained while reviewing the monthly transaction in preparation for a periodic Social Security audit, she found that the spending reports turned in by Walker-Hall would list an even \$20 per week for personal spending and \$10 for toiletries every month. There were very few, and sometimes zero, receipts turned in to back-up the spending being recorded. This was consistent with each client being given the money weekly. The group home manager were asked how much money they receive monthly for each client and all three told Kaspar that they receive \$10 possibly \$20 per month.

On 04/22/13, Kaspar and Rogers spoke with Walker-Hall about the discrepancy in money. Walker-Hall stated the weekly \$20 personal and \$10 toiletry amounts listed were given to the Group Home Managers to spend for client incidentals. She said the group home managers were required to turn in the spending reports and receipts at the end of each month. When asked why all the receipts were not turned in to accounting, Linda said she was not required for purchases under \$20. Kaspar and Rogers asked Walker-Hall why one some months where the client would, for example, receive \$200 for personal allowance why she would document them only receiving \$150. Walker-Hall had no explanation and became upset. Kaspar and Rogers noticed the spending reports turned in by Walker—Hall were not initialed, which was required by their policy. Linda was questioned as to why the reports were not initialed at each transaction and she replied it was used for the client's to initial when they received money. When they asked Walker-Hall to retrieve the cash bag from the accounting office, Walker-Hall said it was not in the accounting office as it was at her residence. Two board members followed Walker-Hall to her residence to retrieve the case bag. Inside the bag was \$2,900; \$2,000 in wrapped \$100 bills, \$500 in \$20 bills, and the rest in lower denominations.

Kaspar and Rogers went into Walker-Halls office and found spending reports in her shred box. The spending reports were the ones maintained by the group home managers which were properly initialed. The spending reports showed that the clients were not receiving the amount Walker-Hall was documenting that she provided to the group home managers.

Nikki Owens, Horizon's Residential Services Coordinator, was interviewed. She stated she worked for Walker-Hall and prior to that was a group home manager. She stated the policy was that each time a transaction took place with the money the spending report would be initialed documenting who did each transactions. Such as if Walker-Hall would provide the group home manager money she would initial the spending report. When the group home manager would run low on money they would contact Walker-Hall requesting additional money. Owens stated on many occasions she would have to purchase toiletries for the clients with her own money because Walker-Hall would tell her there was no more money available.

The group home managers (Gerald Dain, Kristeena Jimenez, and Doris Mack) were all interviewed. They all stated each client would receive approximately \$20 per client per month. When the money was gone they would contact Walker-Hall who would either tell them the client had no additional money or would take between one to two weeks to return the money to them. The clients money was to be used for doctor co-pays, toiletries, outings, and other items. There were several occasions where the group home managers would have to purchase the clients toiletries because they had no money to buy them on their own. They believed that the clients were only allotted \$20 per month for personal spending.

On 06/26/13, a non-custodial interview was conducted with Walker-Hall. She was read the allegations and denied stealing money from any of the clients. She explained she did not keep accurate records for several years. Walker-Hall was asked why there was a discrepancy between the spending reports she turned in and the ones found in her shred box. She stated the money not provided to the group home managers she would use to purchase the toiletries. She said she did not keep accurate records of her spending but would purchase the necessary items for each of the clients. Walker-Hall was asked about the money bag. She said she was supposed to store it in the safe but would keep it with her in the event she needed the money to purchase something for the clients. She did keep it at her residence especially on the weekends in case a group home manager contacted her needing additional money.

Upon reviewing the records provided by Horizon's, it was confirmed that all twenty-four group home clients were considered disabled adults per F.S.S. 825.101(4). The records show that Walker-Hall was issued 16 checks between January 2012 and April 2013 for the amount of \$43,677.16. After reviewing each residential group home clients spending reports it was learned that there was \$22,804.16 in unaccounted for money in which Walker-Hall stated she received in

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC SERVED

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR007650

the checks for the clients to where the group home managers documented they received.

Based upon the above facts, it is believed that Linda Walker-Hall did commit the offenses of Exploitation of the Elderly/Disable Adult (24 counts) per F.S.S. 825.103 (2)(c) and Grand Theft per F.S.S. 812.014 (2)(b), for the theft of money from 24 residential group home clients which she was trusted with their finances. These offenses occurred in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, within Okaloosa County where I am a sworn Law Enforcement Officer.

Signature (Arresting Officer) HAND, BRANDON Name 291 ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 8 day of August A.D., 2013 by who is personally known to me or has produced as identification.

Signature Notary Public LEO CO

Commission No: My Commission Expires

Supervisor Signature Date Supervisor Name (Please Print) Rank

[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested 8/8/2013 01:45 Residency Within jurisdiction Injured None Extent of Injury N/A Resist No
Arrested Prior Yes Arrest Jurisdiction Within jurisdiction Alcohol Unknown Drugs Unknown
No. 1200 Di E Street JAMES LEE BLVD A/L City CRESTVIEW ST FL Zip 32539 Lat / Long
Arresting Officer 291 HAND, BRANDON Unit (GEO) 1 - 5 - - Officer Type
Reporting Officer 083 BRAKE, MICHAEL D Unit OCSO/FSV/INV/CID Original Offense Jurisdiction OCSO
Forward to for approval OCSO/FSV/INV/CID

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00

- () None
() ROR
() Cash
() Pro

Bond Set by Judge (X) None () ROR/Sign
() Cash () PTR
() Any
() Pro
() PtIQ

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC SERVED

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO13ARR007650

()Purge UNSERVED
()SC

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: FELONY Date: 9/10/2013 Time: 01:30
Instructions: 101 EAST JAMES LEE BLVD CRESTVIEW FL

[COURT INFORMATION]

Court Judge Date
Sent CIRCUIT
Rcvd CIRCUIT MANEY 8/1/2013
Court Case Number 134181

Assigned To:

[DISPOSITION]

Disposition Type Release Type Other Desc
Release Date Release Time Release Officer Printed Printed By
No
Released To
Court DispositionType Court Disposition Description

[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

WITNESS STATEMENT

Last First Middle Title R S DOB
WALKER LINDA FAYE W F 11/15/1948

I hereby swear (or affirm) that the facts established on this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

ID / SSN WALKER, LINDA FAYE

COURT DISPOSITION:

(right index)

No Bill / Petition Issue Warrant Prosecution Approved

Signature of Assistant State Attorney Date