



KELLER J. BLACKBURN
Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

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From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: September 15, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wife Sentenced to Prison for Stealing from Husband and from Mother-in-Law

Jane Burns-Hobbs, 42, of The Plains, today was sentenced by Athens County Common Pleas Court Judge Alan Goldsberry to 4 years and nine months in prison for theft from her husband. Following an extensive investigation led by the Athens County Prosecutor's Office White Collar Division and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, more than \$200,000 in non-marital property was found to be missing from the husband of Ms. Burns-Hobbs. Burns-Hobbs also charged more than \$20,000 in charges on her mother-in-law's credit card.

The investigation found that Ms. Burns-Hobbs stole money that her husband intended to use for their children's college education. Instead, Burns-Hobbs used the stolen money for her own personal benefit. The investigation uncovered personal expenditures for cosmetic surgery and for travel to Las Vegas where Burns-Hobbs was having an extramarital affair. The investigation also uncovered multiple attempts at deception including pretending to have a job that required travel to Las Vegas, staging a call impersonating her husband in order to gain access to his stock assets, and providing a fake bank statement portraying money in an account that had already been closed. Burns-Hobbs and her husband are also going through divorce proceedings.

"This investigation is the result of the diligence of Chief Assistant Prosecutor Elizabeth Pepper who worked closely with Secret Services Director Jay Barrett to get to the bottom of this," said Prosecuto Kella Blackburn. "Liz and Jay are true public servants who are committed to justice."

The Burns-Hobbs sentence requires that she pay \$50,000 in restitution to her husband today. She will be eligible for release from prison after six months if she pays an additional \$100,000 in restitution, making for a total of \$150,000 that would have been paid back to her husband.

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