



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2008

Sweetheart Scam Hits Sacramento and Reno – Warning Truckee Meadows Residents

WHERE: Sacramento, California and Reno
VICTIM/S: Senior Citizens

SUSPECT/S: Ruby Miller, 34, resident of Sun Valley (booking # 08-4284)
Nicky Marks, 46, of Sun Valley (booking # 08-4287)
Linda Navarro and Monique Marks (arrested in Sacramento)

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Washoe County Detectives are alerting the public to a scam that has targeted senior citizens in the Sacramento area and has links to the Truckee Meadows. Seniors have allegedly been scammed out of hundreds of thousands of dollars from their victims.

Sacramento Police Detectives took notice of the suspects in November when one man's daughter reported that a woman had moved into her father's home and started spending his money.

Ruby Miller met a 90 year old man by following him home and claiming he had dropped a dollar. Shortly thereafter, she and her daughter moved into his home.

Ruby Miller took power of attorney over the victim's finances and transferred \$51,000 of the equity in his home to her husband's account. She also liquidated approximately \$150,000 in certificates of deposit and forged documents selling his home for \$210,000. After Miller left with the proceeds, the 90 year old victim was forced to move into a care home.

With the help of the "Northern Nevada Identity Theft Task Force", Miller and her husband Nicky Marks were arrested in Sun Valley in January and were charged with grand theft, fraudulently obtaining funds and forgery. They remain in the Washoe County Detention Facility as Fugitives from Justice. Miller's bail is set at \$310,000 and Marks is set at \$300,000.

In Sacramento, Miller's Sister in Law, Linda Navarro befriended the 90 year old male by approaching him at a grocery store and asking him, "didn't I clean your house before?" By explaining that she is caring for an elderly mother and other family members, Navarro gained the victims pity and trust.

The victim, considering her his girlfriend, took Navarro and her niece, Monique Marks, shopping and to expensive dinners spending about \$25,000 on her before Sacramento police had gathered enough information to arrest Navarro. Navarro and Marks were each charged with 3 counts of embezzlement by a caretaker.

Another elderly man was defrauded of \$75,000 by Navarro after meeting him in a graveyard and commiserating over dead spouses. They went to dinner and when the money was gone, so was she.

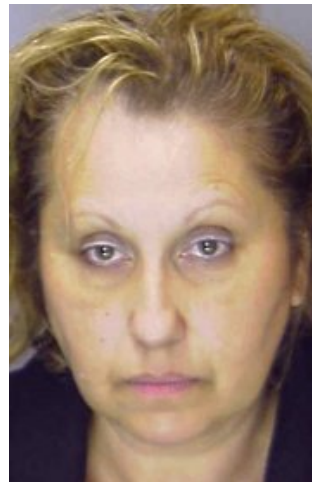
Washoe County Detectives remind residents of the importance of frequently talking with older relatives. Seniors are targeted by scam artists because they are often lonely and will become so embarrassed after being victimized; they are less likely to come forward.

Anyone who has any information regarding these crimes or knows of anyone who may have been a victim of this type of scam is encouraged to call Detectives at 328-3320 or Secret Witness at 322-4900.

New mug shots are available for Nicky Marks (08-4287) and Ruby Miller (08-4284) by contacting WC Records at 328-3030 with the booking number and name of inmates.



Monique Marks



Linda Navarro