



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Glenn Taylor, Executive Director
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Investigation by OIU and Sandusky County Job and Family Services Results in Arrest and Charges for Food-Stamp and Telecom Fraud

COLUMBUS- Criminal charges have been filed against Raymond Barrow of Toledo, following a four-month investigation by agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) and a Sandusky County Deputy Sheriff employed by Sandusky County Job and Family Services.

The case involved deceased food stamp recipient Raymond Messer of Gibsonburg, who died in December of 2009. His benefits continued to be used illegally by his adult son. The investigation found the benefits were used at least 24 times after Messer's death, accruing in the amount of approximately \$677 dollars.

"Food stamp fraud and misuse cannot be tolerated. Ohio's food stamp program is vital to individuals and families in need," said Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas J. Stickrath. "Individuals using food stamp benefits not intended for them are breaking the law."

After running a transaction history and tracing use of the food stamp card in the Toledo area, the Sandusky County Job and Family Services Office referred the case to OIU agents who were able to determine at which stores the card was being used as well as who was using it.

Barrow was arrested on June 24, 2010 and indicted in August 2010 for one count each of illegal use of food stamp and telecom fraud.

The Toledo Police Department assisted in the execution of arrest warrants.

Using food stamps in any manner other than the purpose for which they are intended or for the benefit of someone other than the individual or family that qualifies is illegal. Individuals who are eligible for food stamps may only purchase breads and cereals; fruits and vegetables; meats, fish and poultry; and dairy products from authorized retailers. Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco, and non-food items are not eligible for purchase.

Individuals who believe food stamp fraud is being committed are encouraged to contact the Ohio Investigative Unit toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Agents are undercover sworn peace officers who enforce the state's liquor and tobacco laws, as well as food stamp fraud. Individuals who believe food stamp fraud is being committed are encouraged to contact OIU toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.