



Milton Police Department
37 Bombardier Road
Milton, VT 05468
(802) 893-6171 Voice
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PRESS RELEASE

March 21, 2013

On March 19th, 2013 the Milton Police Department charged **Laura L. Martin (Age 32)** of Georgia, VT with:

Financial Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult Title 13 VSA 1380

Identity Theft Title 13 VSA 2030

Credit Card Fraud Title 9 VSA 4043

These charges stemmed from a three month criminal investigation with the assistance of the Vermont Division of Adult Protective Services alleging Martin was financially exploiting her mother (Age 56) of Milton, who is physically ill and considered by Vermont State Statute to be a vulnerable adult.

The investigation revealed Martin had opened a JC Penney credit card with her mother's personal information and used such credit card for her own personal gain without her mother's consent or knowledge. Martin also used her mother's Kohl's credit card without consent/knowledge for her own person gain. As well as, Martin used a Capital One credit card that was in her mother's name for nearly \$46,000 in charges and allowed the credit card to be defaulted on by the credit card company causing the mother to be served with a civil lawsuit from Capital One. This civil lawsuit made the victim aware of such fraud, and then the Vermont Division of Adult Protective Services was contacted.

It was also learned through the investigation that with all the credit cards, Martin had intentionally changed all the contact, billing and shipping information for the accounts to her own contact information, to prevent the victim from knowing about the illegal usage and/or opening of such cards. This would also prevent all the credit card bills, packages and any other correspondence from the credit card companies from going to her mother.

Martin was issued a citation for the above charges to appear in Chittenden County Superior Court-Criminal Division for the date of April 4th, 2013 at 0815 hours.

Financial Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult is punishable by imprisonment of not more than 10 years or fined not more than \$10,000.00, or both.

Identity Theft is punishable by imprisoned for not more than three years or fined not more \$5,000.00, or both.



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Credit Card Fraud is punishable by imprisoned not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000.00 or both

Vulnerable Adult is defined as:

Any person 18 years of age or older who:

- (A) is a resident of a facility required to be licensed under chapter 71 of Title 33;
- (B) is a resident of a psychiatric hospital or a psychiatric unit of a hospital;
- (C) has been receiving personal care and services from an agency certified by the Vermont department of aging and independent living or from a person or organization that offers, provides, or arranges for personal care; or
- (D) regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, is impaired due to brain damage, infirmities of aging, or a physical, mental, or developmental disability that results in some impairment of the individual's ability to:
 - (i) provide for his or her own care without assistance, including the provision of food, shelter, clothing, health care, supervision, or management of finances; or
 - (ii) protect himself or herself from abuse, neglect, or exploitation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Locke".

Detective Paul Locke
Milton Police Department
(802)893-6171



Laura L. Martin