

MILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

37 Bombardier Road
Milton, VT 05468
(802) 893-2424 Voice
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PRESS RELEASE

Friday, April 06, 2012

On March 26th, 2012 the Milton Police Department charged Melissa J. Fitzgerald (Age 30) of Milton with Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult, Identify Theft and False Pretense/Swindle. These charges stemmed from a 4 month investigation into Melissa Fitzgerald exploiting her elderly grandmother in Milton.

This investigation was brought to the attention of the Milton Police Detectives by other family members who learned of such fraud occurring.

During the criminal investigation, Police found that Fitzgerald had exploited nearly \$88,000 in assets from her grandmother over a 3 year period. Over this period of time, Fitzgerald maintained an elaborate story that was based on lies. Fitzgerald continued such story through telephone calls to her grandmother and represented herself as bank officials, medical staff, as well as a counselor in an effort to obtain money from the grandmother. Fitzgerald also created fraudulent bank letters, bank checks, etc. in order to maintain her fraudulent story and to obtain money.

As the investigation continued into Fitzgerald, it became more apparent that this was not an isolated incident. Detectives learned that Fitzgerald had also defrauded another couple in Barre, VT for thousands of dollars over the last month. In this investigation, Fitzgerald exploited money from the couple by telling them lies about how she was adopting a child and needed such money to do so.

The victims in this Barre, VT case gave Fitzgerald large sums of money believing they were helping her obtain a child through an adoption service. However, Fitzgerald never adopted a child and took the money and fled to the State of Utah.

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Melissa Fitzgerald (Age 30) was arraigned in Chittenden County Superior Court-Criminal Division on March 29th, 2012.

She was also served a citation to appear in Washington County Superior Court-Criminal Division for the date of April 26th, 2012.

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

04/06/2012

Detective Corporal Paul Locke
Milton Police Department