



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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August 31, 2009

WEST TEXAS FOOD BANK EMPLOYEE INDICTED IN FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT SCAM

John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney, announced that in Midland, 59-year-old Charles Edward Curry of Odessa, faces federal charges in connection with an alleged scheme to steal personal identification information and use that information for personal benefit.

Last Wednesday, a federal grand jury indicted Curry on four counts of wire fraud and four counts of aggravated identity theft. The indictment alleges that from November 2008 until August 2009, while working at the West Texas Food Bank and residing at the Salvation Army in Odessa, Curry engaged in a scheme to steal personal information from Temporary Housing Client Record Cards of at least 57 individuals who had stayed at the Salvation Army as well as illegally obtaining checking account information of donors who submitted monetary donations by check to the food bank. In all, Curry allegedly was responsible for obtaining thousands of dollars in money or goods by fraudulent pretenses. The indictment further alleges that Curry used the stolen information and money to obtain credit cards. He subsequently paid for internet services, flowers, utilities, lawn and garden supplies, and even a traffic ticket using those credit cards.

Curry was arrested on Friday. The indictment was unsealed this morning by United States Magistrate Judge David Counts during Curry's Initial Appearance. Curry remains in federal custody pending a detention hearing scheduled for 10:00am on Thursday before Judge Counts.

Upon conviction, Curry faces up to twenty years in federal prison per fraud count; and a mandatory two years in federal prison per aggravated identity theft count, to run consecutive to any sentence imposed on the fraud counts.

This case was investigated by the Odessa Police Department. It is being prosecuted for the United States by Assistant United States Attorney Austin Berry.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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