



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

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TWO NORTH LITTLE ROCK WOMEN INDICTED FOR IDENTITY THEFT

Little Rock - U. S. Attorney Jane W. Duke and North Little Rock Police Chief Danny Bradley announced that Tamara Hill, age 30, and Ebony Flowers, age 25, both of North Little Rock, Arkansas, were indicted today by a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Arkansas for identity theft. Both are charged with one count each of credit card fraud, misuse of a social security number, and aggravated identity theft. Hill is also charged with possessing over fifteen (15) access devices.

According to the indictment, on or about May 30, 2008, Hill and Flowers used another person's social security number to obtain credit. They then used an unauthorized Discover Card account to obtain four gift cards with a value of more than \$1,000. Upon their arrest by local authorities, Tamara Hill possessed over fifteen (15) unauthorized access devices which had been obtained with the intent to defraud.

Investigation revealed that Hill was an employee of Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock. In the course of her employment, Hill had access to the personal identification information (PII) of hospital patients. Hill abused that access by utilizing some patient identities to fraudulently obtain goods and to establish credit. Baptist Health has been cooperative in the investigation and has voluntarily provided notification to all patients whose information may have been compromised.

"Those who commit identity theft often ruin the good credit and financial stability of law abiding citizens. We are committed to fully prosecuting those that steal other's identities and use that information for their own benefit," stated Duke. "If you have been the target of identity theft, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>."

If convicted, Hill and Flowers could be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than ten (10) years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both for the credit card fraud; not more than five (5) years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both for misuse of a social security number; and a consecutive 2 years to be served for the aggravated identity theft. Hill could additionally serve not more than 10 years and/or a fine of \$250,000 for the access devices she possessed.

This investigation was conducted by the United States Postal Service, United States Secret Service, and the North Little Rock Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Jana Harris will prosecute this case for the United States.

An Indictment contains only allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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