



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, June 8, 2021
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Lawrence County Attorney Indicted for Wire Fraud and Federal Program Theft

LEXINGTON, Ky. - In a newly unsealed federal indictment, the County Attorney for Lawrence County and his legal secretary have been indicted on charges of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and federal program theft.

On Thursday, June 3, a federal grand jury in Lexington returned an indictment charging Michael T. Hogan, 53, and his wife, Joy M. Hogan, 41, with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and charging Michael Hogan with nine counts of wire fraud, and five counts of federal program theft.

The indictment alleges that the Hogans conspired with each other to commit wire fraud by issuing checks from a second delinquent tax account for the Lawrence County Attorney's Office, the statements for which went to their personal residence. It is alleged that Michael Hogan and Joy Hogan would routinely prepare "bonus" checks issued to Joy, and signed by Michael, paid with delinquent tax funds that should have been used on operating expenses for the Lawrence County Attorney's Office. The Hogans deposited these checks in Joy's personal account and the couple's joint accounts and spent the funds on personal expenses. The indictment alleges that, between March 8, 2013 and April 30, 2020, Michael Hogan paid Joy Hogan more than \$365,000, from the Lawrence County Delinquent Tax Account.

The indictment also alleges that Michael Hogan defrauded the Lawrence County Child Support Enforcement Office, part of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. It is alleged Hogan billed the program for far more hours than he actually worked. It is also alleged Michael Hogan paid employees working for his private law firm with funds from the Child Support Enforcement office.

Carlton S. Shier, IV, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Robert Brown, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Louisville Field Office; and Colonel Phillip Burnett, Commissioner, Kentucky State Police; jointly announced the sentence, jointly announced the indictment.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the FBI and KSP. The case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kate Smith.

Michael Hogan's initial appearance is June 9 at 11 a.m., and Joy Hogan is scheduled to

appear on Friday, June 11, at 1 p.m. On the wire fraud charges, they face up to 20 years in prison and a fine of no more than \$250,000 or twice the amount of gain or loss. On the federal program theft charges, Michael Hogan faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of no more than \$250,000. However, any sentence following a conviction would be imposed by the Court, after its consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal sentencing statutes.

Any indictment is an accusation only. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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