

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * CRIMINAL NO. 20-135
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 * SECTION: B
SONJA DYSON EVANS *
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FACTUAL BASIS

If this case were to proceed to trial, the United States would prove the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

During the relevant time, the defendant, **SONJA DYSON EVANS**, was employed by the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's office in the Criminal Records Division as a supervisor. In this position, **DYSON EVANS** was responsible for the preparation of appearance bonds to obtain the release of defendants from jail. This included verifying the availability of property to be utilized and the ability of a surety to secure a bond. In this capacity, **DYSON EVANS** was a "public employee" and a "person in a position of public authority" as those terms are defined under the laws of the State of Louisiana. *See* La. Rev. Stat. §14:118(B).

Shawanda Dove was a Tangipahoa Parish resident. She did not have a licensed bail bonds business nor did she utilize her own property as collateral for bonds. However, Dove was known by parish residents as a person who, for a fee, was able to obtain property bonds, without a legitimate surety or property for collateral. She did this by obtaining fraudulent property bonds from **SONJA DYSON EVANS** and others.

Beginning not later than about January 2016, and continuing through January 2017, Dove received numerous calls from individuals in jail or their family members requesting a bond. Dove would contact **DYSON EVANS** by cellphone to request a bond for the incarcerated person. **DYSON EVANS** would assess the bond requirements set by the court, and give Dove a price for

the bond. This price was then communicated to the requesting party by Dove. Dove and **DYSON EVANS** regularly communicated by cellphone, a facility of interstate commerce, to negotiate the details of these transactions.

When the family of the incarcerated person paid the fee to Dove, **DYSON EVANS** would prepare the bond paperwork. For collateral for these bonds, **DYSON EVANS** utilized properties belonging to individuals who were unaware of the bond, did not know the incarcerated person, and had not given their consent for the use of their properties. **DYSON EVANS** notarized the bond documents knowing that they contained forged signatures of the property owners.


DYSON EVANS then delivered the forged bond paperwork to Dove in exchange for money. The money received was not properly recorded in the Criminal Records Division, but instead kept by **DYSON EVANS** or shared with other employees. Dove, who also retained a portion of the money, then provided the bond paperwork to the inmate's relative, who would take it to the jail where the family member would be released.

In total, **DYSON EVANS** and other coconspirators received not less than \$31,000 in bribe payments. **DYSON EVANS** was paid to influence her conduct and cause her to take the official act of creating and providing fraudulent property bonds for incarcerated individuals.

READ AND APPROVED:


SONJA DYSON EVANS
Defendant

3/22/21
Date


WALTER F. BECKER, JR.
Counsel for Defendant

3/18/21
Date


TRACEY N. KNIGHT
Assistant United States Attorney

3/22/21
Date