

2025R00008/KLA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. Robert Kirsch
:
v. : Crim. No. 25- CR-570
:
MARK STRATTON : 18 U.S.C. § 641

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SEP 25 2025
ROBERT KIRSCH
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the
United States charges:

(Theft of Public Money)

Introduction

At all times relevant to this Information:

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”) was an agency of the United States within the United States government that administered disability and retirement benefits to military veterans and their surviving spouses.

2. Defendant Mark Stratton (“STRATTON”) was a resident of Mercer County, New Jersey.

3. STRATTON’s father served in the United States military. STRATTON assisted his father in applying for VA benefits through the Veteran Affairs Disability Compensation program.

4. After STRATTON’s father’s death, STRATTON’s mother, as the surviving spouse, received Stratton’s father’s VA benefits by direct deposit into a bank account ending in 1208 (the “1208 Account”), for which STRATTON was a joint account holder.

5. STRATTON's mother died on or about November 22, 2008. After her death, neither STRATTON, nor any other individual, was entitled to receive VA benefits on behalf of STRATTON's father.

The Scheme to Defraud

6. From in or around December 2008 to in or around April 2025, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

MARK STRATTON,

did knowingly and intentionally embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert to his own use money of the United States exceeding \$1,000, that is, approximately \$256,027.00 in VA benefits to which he was not entitled.

Goal of the Scheme

7. The goal of the scheme was for STRATTON to obtain money from the VA to which he was not entitled by failing to notify the VA about his mother's death, and by fraudulently continuing to utilize the funds deposited by the VA for his own purposes.

Manner and Means

8. Following his mother's death in or around November 2008, STRATTON did not notify the VA of his mother's death. As a result, the VA continued to deposit monthly benefits into the 1208 Account.

9. STRATTON fraudulently continued to collect his mother's VA benefits until in or around April 2025. After her death, each time STRATTON moved, he

updated the contact address on the 1208 Account to reflect his personal address, thereby allowing him to maintain access to the 1208 Account and the VA benefits that were deposited into the 1208 Account. STRATTON knew that he was not entitled his mother's VA benefits but continued to collect them fraudulently for his own use.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

Upon conviction of Theft of Public Money, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641, as charged in this Information, the defendant, MARK STRATTON, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), all property, real and personal, the defendant obtained that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of said offense, the value of which totaled \$256,027.00.

SUBSTITUTE ASSETS PROVISION

If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above-described forfeitable property.

TODD W. BLANCHE
United States Deputy Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alina Habba". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alina" and last name "Habba" clearly distinguishable.

ALINA HABBA
Acting United States Attorney
Special Attorney

CASE NUMBER: 25-CR-570

**United States District Court
District of New Jersey**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MARK STRATTON

INFORMATION FOR

18 U.S.C. § 641

**TODD W. BLANCHE
UNITED STATES DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**ALINA HABBA
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SPECIAL ATTORNEY**

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