

24 FROM ORANGE COUNTY CHARGED WITH WELFARE FRAUD

Bobby Welber | Published: June 30, 2016

Orange County District Attorney's Office

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Maria Benetiz
Welfare Fraud 3rd
Grand Larceny 3rd



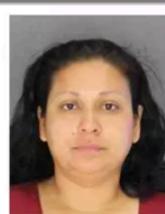
Mallory Berrios
Welfare Fraud 3rd
Grand Larceny 3rd



Mary Beth Buttiglieri
Welfare Fraud 3rd
Grand Larceny 3rd



Janine Cassisi
Welfare Fraud 3rd
Grand Larceny 3rd



Angelica Cespedes
Welfare Fraud 4th
Grand Larceny 4th



Cherdale Benjamin
Welfare Fraud 3rd
Grand Larceny 3rd



Dorean Christian
Welfare Fraud 3rd
Grand Larceny 3rd



Alber Cortez
Welfare Fraud 3rd
Grand Larceny 3rd



FEATURED



Real-Time Hudson Valley News

24 Orange County residents were charged with stealing over \$240,000 in welfare, food stamps, medicaid and other public assistance benefits.

The arrests were part of a joint effort between the Orange County Department of Social Services Special Investigations Unit, the Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office.

RECOMMENDED

During the investigation, investigators reviewed files of public assistance benefit recipients suspected of fraud, interviewed recipients, and forwarded cases to the District Attorney's Office for further investigation.

Investigators from the District Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office interviewed many of the recipients before arresting them.

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Below is a chart supplied by the Orange County District Attorney's Office of the names of those arrested, the amount they allegedly stole, charges, and hometown:

NAME	TOTAL AMOUNT	BENEFIT	AG CHARGES		PLACE OF RESIDENCE
			E	3	
Janine Cassisi	\$32,700.89	SNAPMedica	52	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	New Windsor
Nadia Jackson	\$30,618.00	SNAP	38	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh
Maria Benetiz	\$27,962.00	SNAPTA	35	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Middletown
Cherdale Benjamin	\$20,695	SNAP	45	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Middletown
Lorena Ortiz	\$14,027.00	SNAPMedica	55	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Cornwall
Mallory Berrios	\$11,558.36	Medicaid	25	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Highland Mills
Belinda Newkirk	\$8,707.84	SNAPMedica	41	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh
Kristen Torres	\$8,098.50	Medicaid	34	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	New Windsor
Eric Rodarte	\$7,897.00	SNAPTA	35	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh
Shawte Ward	\$7,263.00	TA	32	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh

24 from Orange County Charged with Welfare Fraud

Dorean Christian	\$6,594.23	SNAPMedica	54 id	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Montgomery
Mary Beth Buttiglieri	\$3,891.00	SNAP	48	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Cornwall
Bobby Jones, Jr.Angel Jones	\$3,315	SNAPMedica	39 id	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Middletown
Reggie Smith	\$3,279.50	SNAPTA	20	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh
Kelly Ann Sanchez	\$3,146.66	SNAPTA	24	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh
Stacey Rayford	\$2,421.00	SNAP	45	Welfare Fraud 4Grand Larceny 4	Newburgh
David Lewis	\$2,036.00	SNAPTA	54	Welfare Fraud 4Grand Larceny 4	Newburgh
Chantel Russ	\$1,128.00	SNAP	27	Welfare Fraud 4Grand Larceny 4	Newburgh
Angelica Cespedes	\$2,285.00	SNAP	29	Welfare Fraud 4Grand Larceny 4	Newburgh
Patricia Richards	\$5,601.00	SNAPMedica	45 id	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh
Katrina Thomas	\$3,190.49	SNAP	39	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Middletown
Alber Cortez	\$7,080.01	SNAPMedica	47 id	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	Newburgh
Kim Simon-Smith	\$28,777.61	Medicaid	50	Welfare Fraud 3Grand Larceny 3	New Windsor

The welfare fraud investigation is the fifth since Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler, and Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus took office. Since 2014, 146 have been charged with welfare fraud as a result of the five public benefits fraud enforcement actions.

In all 5 investigations \$1,547,573.49 was allegedly stolen. To date, Orange County has been repaid approximately \$420,076.76 by criminal defendants who were charged in the enforcement actions.

"The over one and one half million dollars in public benefits fraud that have been discovered during the course of these enforcement actions demonstrate just how much this type of fraud costs taxpayers," said District Attorney Hoovler in a statement.

"Cracking down on welfare fraud has been a priority since District Attorney Hoovler and I took office," said County Executive Neuhaus. "We will continue to aggressively prosecute anyone that abuses Orange County's social services. We will not allow anyone to cheat the system and the hardworking taxpayers of Orange County. These types of cases are a priority for us."

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