

MAN CHARGED WITH POSING AS LAWYER; WEST ST. PAUL MAN SWINDLED \$60,000, SAY AUTHORITIES

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Body

Hennepin County **authorities charged** a **West St. Paul man** Friday with **posing** as an immigration **lawyer** who could help people with their immigration status.

Juan Flores, also known as Juan Roman Flores-Olivetti, Michael Leroy Hughes and Leroy M. Hughes, was **charged** with three counts of felony theft by **swindle** using artifice, trick, device or other means.

According to the complaint, Flores told Margarita Martinez-Tavira he could help her get a deportation order suspended for \$3,000. Ricardo Duarte Bautisto hired him to help obtain a work permit and permanent residency at a cost of \$1,300, the complaint **said**, and for \$1,200 he **said** he could help R. Nicolas Sanchez with insurance matters after a car accident.

Flores, who most recently lived on East Sidney **Street** in **West St. Paul**, did little or nothing to help the clients he took on, the complaint **says**.

In all, the complaint cited 39 victims and **said** he had **swindled** people out of \$59,666.

"Juan Flores took criminal advantage of vulnerable people," **said** Amy Klobuchar, Hennepin County Attorney. "His victims trusted him not only with their money but with their very lives."

For each count he faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

He used papers from another attorney's office, claiming to work with him, the complaint **said**, but never sent anything to the Immigration Naturalization Service. Some of his victims were threatened with deportation orders and although he told them he could get the orders suspended, he filed no papers with the INS.

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