



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For More Information,  
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September 13, 2011

**Identity Theft Suspect Arrested**

(Bushnell, Florida)

Sumter County Sheriff's detectives arrested Lindsay J. Cunningham, 27, of Webster charging her with Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information. On September 2, 2011, sheriff's detectives began investigating fraudulent ATM withdrawals from the victim's bank account without their knowledge or consent. The victim is an unidentified elderly person who Cunningham had befriended.

During an interview, Cunningham admitted to detectives to removing the victim's ATM card and PIN number and using them to make the withdrawals. Cunningham was arrested and taken to the Sumter County Detention Center in lieu of a \$2,000 dollar bond.



**Lindsay Cunningham**

To help protect you against identity theft, Sheriff Farmer offers the following tips:

- To minimize the amount of information a thief can steal, do not carry extra credit cards, your Social Security card, birth certificate or passport in your wallet or purse, except when needed.
- You can limit the number of pre-approved offers of credit that you receive in the mail by removing your name from the marketing lists of the three credit reporting bureaus. These pre-approved offers usually are discarded in the trash.
- Shred charge receipts, bank statements, credit applications and other forms that contain personal information before discarding.

- When ordering new checks, don't have them sent to your home. Pick them up at the bank instead.
- When you pay bills, do not leave the envelopes containing your checks at your home's mailbox for the postal carrier to pick up. If stolen, your checks can be altered and then cashed. If stolen, credit card payments contain all the necessary information an identity thief needs. It's best to mail bills and other sensitive items at the post office rather than from your residence or neighborhood drop boxes.
- Never give out your credit card number or other personal information over the telephone unless you have a trusted business relationship with the company and you have initiated the call.
- Always take credit card and ATM receipts with you. Never toss them in a public trash container.
- Watch the mail when you are expecting a new credit card that you have applied for or a re-issued card that has expired. Immediately contact the issuer if the credit card does not arrive.
- When creating passwords and PIN's, do not use the last four digits of your Social Security number, your birth date, middle name, mother's maiden name, address, consecutive numbers or anything else that could be discovered easily by thieves.
- Memorize all of your passwords and PIN's. Don't record them on anything in your wallet or purse.
- Shield your hand when using your PIN at a bank ATM or when making long distance phone calls with your phone card.
- Carefully review your credit card statements and phone bills for any unauthorized charges or fraudulent use.

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