



# SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Fraud Arrest

On 01/18/18, detectives from the Sumter County Sheriff's Office arrested 64-year-old Jacalyn Hamilton-O'Neil of The Villages on felony charges of fraud and larceny. Hamilton-O'Neil was charged with swindling multiple out-of-state victims in a scheme involving a rental property in The Villages.

During an investigation initiated by complaints to Seniors vs. Crime, detectives from Sumter County Sheriff's Office's Financial Crimes Unit discovered Hamilton-O'Neil fraudulently rented the same residence to nearly 50 victims for the same or overlapping periods during winter and spring 2018. After receiving their payments in advance, Hamilton-O'Neil later told renters her house was no longer available, giving a variety of excuses. Although Hamilton-O'Neil made partial repayments to some victims, the majority never received refunds.

SCSO detectives charged Hamilton-O'Neil with defrauding six victims from Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Canada for over \$26,000.00. Because victims sent payments to Hamilton-O'Neil at addresses in Sumter County and New York State, cases are being investigated in both jurisdictions.

Hamilton-O'Neil was booked at the Sumter County Detention Center on charges of Organized Fraud, Grand Theft from Persons 65 or Older, and Grand Theft. Hamilton-O'Neil's bond was set at \$17,000.00.

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