

Agency ORI Number
FL0531300

City of Lake Wales



Lake Wales, FL

INCIDENT NUMBER

250000058

CO-DEFENDANT:

VICTIM/WITNESS:

Victim:	BROCK,STEFANIE MARIE	W/F
Victim:	BROCK,MATTHEW JAMES	W/M
Victim:	NASSEH LAW	/
Witness	NASSEH,CHRISTOPHER	

PROBABLE CAUSE:

On January 8th, 2025 Stefanie Marie Brock was defrauded of \$38,805.17. Stefanie was communicating with Nasseh Law, a real estate law firm, through email in regard to a property transaction. The person Stefanie was communicating with is Nasseh Law Real Estate Paralegal Isabelle Saman and her email address is Isabelle@nassehlaw.com <<mailto:Isabelle@nassehlaw.com>>. Stefanie and her husband, Matthew James Brock, were planning on wiring the \$38,805.17 to Nasseh Law, while Stefanie's father was planning on wiring a similar amount to Nasseh Law, for a total of \$77,810.17. However, on December 27th, 2024 Stefanie began receiving emails from Isabelle@nassehlaw.co <<mailto:Isabelle@nassehlaw.co>>. Stefanie did not notice the difference in the emails. The difference between the two listed email addresses are the top-level domains (TLD), being the .com and .co. Isabelle@nassehlaw.co <<mailto:Isabelle@nassehlaw.co>> is a spoofed email created for the purpose of intercepting Stefanie's emails and impersonating Nasseh Law. Stefanie continued to email the spoofed email address under the impression she was still communicating with Nasseh Law associates.

Eventually, on January 8th, 2025 Stefanie received an email from the spoofed email address with wiring instructions for the scammer's bank account. On the same day, Stefanie's father received an email with wiring instructions from the correct Nasseh Law email address with wiring instructions for the real estate firm. Stefanie and her father wired the money using the wiring instructions they were individually sent.

On January 9th, 2025 Stefanie received a phone call from Nasseh Law in regards to requesting a receipt of payment. Confused, Stefanie advised Nasseh Law of the money being wired on January 8th; however, Nasseh Law informed her the funds were not received. Stefanie called her bank, Truist Bank, and confirmed the \$38,805.17 was successfully wired. Stefanie called Isabelle Saman to speak with her in regard to the wire. Isabelle requested Stefanie to email her the wiring instructions she received. Stefanie was advised there were multiple discrepancies between the wiring instructions she received from the spoofed email address and the wiring instructions Nasseh Law provides, such as the wrong account number and bank. After Stefanie was told the wiring instructions were wrong, she reviewed the spoofed email and recognized the differences between Isabelle@nassehlaw.com <<mailto:Isabelle@nassehlaw.com>> and Isabelle@nassehlaw.co <<mailto:Isabelle@nassehlaw.co>>.

I reviewed the wiring instructions Nasseh Law sends their clients, versus the fraudulent wiring instructions provided by the spoofed email address. The fraudulent wiring instructions listed First Horizon Bank 200 North Main Street, China Grove, North Carolina 28023. The listed routing is [REDACTED] account [REDACTED] the beneficiary name is "Nasseh Law/Libquest," and the header is labeled "Nasseh Law PLLC/Libquest Title Trust Account." The fraudulent wiring instructions also contain Nasseh Law's business logo, business address, business phone number, and business name.

The correct wiring instructions Nasseh Law sent Stefanie's father has a different bank, routing, and account number, but retains the business logo, business address, business phone number, and business name. Additionally, the correct wiring instructions have an "Important" disclaimer which advises customers to verify wiring instructions prior to wiring any money. This disclaimer was not present on the fraudulent wiring instructions.

The First Horizon Bank account and routing number were discovered to belong to a subject named Cecil Porter Bartu. Cecil also listed the entity "Libquest" on the account. Cecil's listed address on the account is [REDACTED]

Agency ORI Number
FL0531300

City of Lake Wales



Lake Wales, FL

INCIDENT NUMBER

250000058

Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28215. The bank account was opened on November 13th, 2024 and on the same day, \$100.00 was deposited into the account. Leading up to the January 9th, 2025 no additional money was deposited into the account until the \$38,805.17 was wired and received.

On January 9th, 2025 Cecil enters the Charlotte Uptown Banking Center and withdraws \$33,100.00 from the bank account listed on the fraudulent wiring instructions. Security footage captured the transaction and a still photograph was sent to Raleigh Police Department for identification. Raleigh Police Department Officer David Deach #3138 positively identified Cecil from prior experiences.

Cecil was unable to withdraw the full \$38,805.17, due to First Horizon placing a hold on the account. Cecil left the bank with the money and drove to Charlotte Southpark Banking Center, where he was again denied access to the remaining funds. Associates from the bank walked outside and photographed the tag on the vehicle Cecil arrived in. The vehicle photographed is a grey Chrysler 300S North Carolina plate #LDF4318, and is registered to Cecil Bartu. Additionally, on the same date, \$485.50 is withdrawn from two separate ATMs at 2022 East 7th Street and 6233 Albemarle Road, Charlotte, North Carolina.

After the funds were transferred, First Horizon Bank was notified of the fraudulent wire transfer, and the account was closed. The remainder of the funds were transferred back to Stefanie, and First Horizon Bank attempted to contact Cecil over the phone to return the funds; however, they were unsuccessful and Cecil has not returned the money.

Cecil intentionally opened a bank account in November for the purpose of committing fraud. The account was not used for any other purpose besides obtaining the \$38,805.17 from Stefanie. On the same day the wire was received, Cecil went into the bank and withdrew a majority of the money. Since withdrawing the money First Horizon Bank has been unable to contact Cecil, nor has he returned or contacted the bank to address the theft. Cecil's bank account is also tied to the spoofed email address that sent the wiring instructions to Stefanie.

Information found in the wiring instructions such as a bank, bank account/routing number, and the entity Libquest mirrors Cecil's bank account and the entity he listed in the account. Also, the wiring instructions include personal identification information obtained from Nasseh Law used as a means for deception, without their consent.

Due to the above facts, I believe probable cause exists to charge Cecil Porter Bartu with Obtaining Property by Fraud \$20,000.00 less than \$50,000.00, Grand Theft \$20,000.00 812.014(2)(B)1, and Fraudulent Use of Personal Identification Information 817.568(2)(A).

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, THIS 9 DAY OF April 2025

This affidavit was electronically signed

RODRIGUEZ, IVELISSE

L335

HELGERMAN, RILEY

L415

DEPUTY CLERK/NOTARY PUBLIC/LEO

AFFIANT