



**NEWS RELEASE**

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Public Information  
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**Woman Sentenced to 15 Years Probation and Ordered to Pay Back \$120,000  
She Stole Using her Dead Mother's Social Security Number**

Terri Sue Potter (DOB 07/02/56) was sentenced to 15 years of economic crime probation for using her dead mother's Social Security number to fraudulently obtain \$120,000 in Social Security payments over a period of 25 years.

Adams County District Judge Jill Ellyn Straus also ordered Potter to pay back the \$120,000 she stole and perform 100 hours of community service to the elderly or homeless that does not involve dealing with money. She will serve 90 days in home detention.

Potter was convicted by an Adams County District Court jury on Dec. 10 of three counts of felony theft (F3). Potter took \$120,000 using her dead mother's Social Security number from 1987 to 2012.

Potter's mother, Helen Browning Potter, was born in 1911, and obtained a Social Security card in 1937 when the program began. The theft was discovered under the Social Security Administration's Centenarian Program in which people who are 100 years old are contacted to see if they need additional supplemental benefits. When employees attempted to contact Helen Browning Potter, they discovered she had died in 1987.

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