



**NEWS RELEASE**

September 17, 2018  
Contact: Sue Lindsay  
Public Information  
303-835-5639

**“Serial Squatter” Heather Schwab Sentenced to 6 Years for Identity Theft**

Heather Schwab was sentenced Monday to six years in prison for felony identity theft in connection with “serial squatting” in which she fraudulently leased properties and then failed to pay rent, living in the homes until she was evicted.

Schwab (DOB 01-26-75) pleaded guilty to the charge last month and also must pay restitution in two charged cases as well as in several cases that are pending charges. The amount has not yet been determined. The case was prosecuted by the Economic Crime Unit of the District Attorney's Office.

She was charged with theft, forgery and identity theft in two cases in Adams County. Schwab signed an 18-month lease February 15 and paid James Warner, 78, with two checks for \$4,400 in rent and a deposit on a property at 2756 E. 139<sup>th</sup> Place in Thornton. Both checks bounced. She also was charged in connection with her rental of a property at 12188 Locust Street in unincorporated Adams County in April while posing as a relative.

Schwab's attorney asked for probation but Senior Deputy District Attorney Robyn Cafasso argued for a prison sentence because Schwab's criminal record shows that she continues to commit crimes on probation and she was facing a probation revocation in another theft case when these crimes were committed. Cafasso said Schwab had been committing a string of similar offenses since 1996 in Colorado and Texas.

Adams County Judge Byron Howell imposed the maximum sentence under the plea bargain, calling Schwab's conduct “appalling”.

Schwab has been held without bond on an extradition case out of Texas concerning similar charges in that state.

Schwab's husband, William Eric Schwab (DOB 05/30/70) also pleaded guilty Monday to one count of conspiracy to commit identity theft in connection with the scheme. His sentencing is set for 8:30 a.m. November 13 in Division F of Adams County District Court.

###