

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: Laurie Cramer
(330) 643-2800

Woman convicted of stealing educational services sentenced

(January 18, 2011) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Kelly Williams-Bolar, 40, of Akron, was sentenced today by Judge Patricia Cosgrove to 10 days in jail, two years of Community Control, with two five-year terms in prison to run concurrent, being suspended, for stealing educational services from the Copley-Fairlawn School District.

On Saturday, January 15, Williams-Bolar was found guilty by a jury of two counts of Tampering with Records, both felonies of the third degree. The jury could not reach a decision, or was hung, on one count of Grand Theft against Ms. Williams-Bolar. The jury was also hung on a charge of Grand Theft against Williams-Bolar's father, Edward Williams, 64, of Copley. One count of tampering pertained to false information on the children's residency. The second tampering count was from Ms. Williams-Bolar's failure to state her true income and child support on her free lunch application.

Williams-Bolar enrolled her two children in the Copley-Fairlawn Schools from August 2006 until the end of the 2008 school year claiming the students were living with their grandparents in Copley. Evidence proved that the two students were living at all times with their mother and being dropped off at a bus stop near their grandparent's home. Copley-Fairlawn does not have open enrollment. After being informed of this by Copley-Fairlawn, Ms. Williams-Bolar and her father, Edward Williams, represented to the School Board during a residency hearing that she and the children resided within the district. In October 2007, the pair filed an application for a Grand Parent Power of Attorney. The Juvenile Court found false statements in the grandparent's application in June of 2008 and denied the Power of Attorney.

Williams-Bolar continued to refuse to withdraw her children from the school district despite repeated requests from the school district.

On January 24, 2011, at 1:00 p.m., in Judge Cosgrove's court, prosecutors will address the two remaining counts on the indictment against Mr. Williams, along with whether they will re-try the hung counts from this trial. The two additional counts in the indictment pertain to Edward Williams' unrelated theft charges associated with the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services.