



BCPO News

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PURPORTED LOAN SPECIALIST ARRESTED ON THEFT AND TAX CHARGES

The following information is being jointly released by Burlington County Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi, Maple Shade Police Chief Gary Gubbei and Special Agent in Charge Charles Giblin of the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Office of Criminal Investigation:

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. – A Cherry Hill man who held himself out as a mortgage loan specialist was arrested yesterday on theft and other charges after an investigation revealed that he used \$146,000 for personal expenses that had been paid to him by four Burlington County residents seeking loan assistance.

Mark L. Begley, age 50, of Park Boulevard in Cherry Hill, was charged with Theft by Deception (Second Degree), two counts of Theft by Deception (Third Degree), Misapplication of Entrusted Property (Second Degree), two counts of Misapplication of Entrusted Property (Third Degree), Filing a Fraudulent or False Income Tax Return (Third Degree), two counts of Failure to Pay/Remit Taxes (Third Degree) and Failure to File a Return (Third Degree).

Begley was taken into custody yesterday following the execution of a search warrant at his residence. During a first appearance today in Superior Court, the Hon. Thomas P. Kelly, J.S.C. set Begley's bail at \$100,000. The defendant remains lodged in the Burlington County Jail. The charges will now be presented to a Grand Jury for possible indictment.

The investigation revealed that Begley purported to be a mortgage loan specialist whose services included assistance with procuring reverse mortgages, mortgage refinancing and assorted loan modifications. Begley generated documents for his clients to sign in an effort to convince them that he was working with lenders and mortgage companies on their behalf. Instead, he pocketed the money that had been paid to him by clients for the purpose of securing mortgage and loan modifications.

He would accept payment and indicate the funds would be placed in an escrow account pending the outcome of his negotiations with mortgage companies and lenders on behalf of the clients. The funds were never deposited into an escrow account. Instead, Begley took these entrusted funds and used them for his personal expenses.

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The charges represent crimes against four victims: a couple in Edgewater Park that gave Begley More than \$110,000, a Cinnaminson couple that gave him nearly \$21,000 and two Maple Shade residents who paid Begley \$15,100 for services that were never received.

The investigation also revealed that Begley failed to file a personal income tax return in 2012, filed a false or fraudulent income tax return in 2011 and failed to pay personal income tax in 2011 and 2012.

The investigation was conducted by the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office Financial Crimes Unit, the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Office of Criminal Investigation, and the Maple Shade Township Police Department with the assistance of the Mount Laurel Township Police Department and the Cherry Hill Police Department.

If you believe you have been victimized by Mark Begley, please call the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office at 609-265-5035 and ask to speak to a detective in the Financial Crimes Unit.

All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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