

U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United States Attorney Jeffrey G. Collins announced that a criminal complaint had been filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit, Michigan on June 29, 2004 charging PATRICK WYNNE of Monroe, Michigan with stealing more than \$200,000 in cash from immigration detainees held in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement section (ICE) (formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)). Mr. Collins was joined in today's announcement by Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General; Special Agent-in-Charge Edward Dyer of the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General; and Acting Special Agent in Charge Gail M. Seavey of the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The criminal complaint charges PATRICK WYNNE, in his capacity as an officer and employee of the United States, with embezzling and converting property of another in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 654.

Mr. Collins stated, "PATRICK WYNNE has been charged with stealing cash from numerous aliens and immigration detainees who were held in the custody of the United States between 2000 and 2004. During that time, Mr. WYNNE was employed as a Detention Enforcement Officer/Immigration Enforcement Agent and was the Property Officer at the INS/ICE detention facility in Monroe County, Michigan. Mr. Collins emphasized, "this type of criminal activity by a law enforcement officer is outrageous and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

Inspector Ervin of DHS-OIG stated that, "the Department of Homeland Security is dedicated to the fair and just treatment of all individuals placed into our custody awaiting deportation or removal from the United States. These thefts are entirely unacceptable and represent a fundamental betrayal of our mission. Any DHS employee involved in any such activity will be investigated with the full resources of this office."

Acting Special Agent in Charge Seavey stated, "Mr. Wynne utilized his position to gain access to property belonging to potential detainees and his misappropriation of their property has led to the complaint. This investigation is the result of the outstanding cooperative effort of all law enforcement agencies involved."

DOJ OIG Special Agent in Charge Edward Dyer stated, "The Justice Department will vigorously pursue serious allegations of criminal misconduct against federal employees who betray their positions of public trust. DOJ Inspector General Glenn Fine is particularly

concerned when allegations arise involving the exploitation, mistreatment or abuse of detainees."

Mr. Collins added that, "the charges filed against Mr. WYNNE carry a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to \$400,000, or both. Any sentence will be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendant."

A complaint is only a charging document and not evidence of guilt. Trial cannot be held on a felony charges in a complaint. When the investigation is completed, a determination will be made whether to seek a felony indictment. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.