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**Johanne M. Elie and Ricky L. Elie Indicted
on Federal Wire Fraud and Tax Evasion Charges**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Johanne M. Elie**, age 48, and **Ricky L. Elie**, age 41, of Biddeford, Maine were indicted today by the federal grand jury sitting in Portland and charged with wire fraud and tax evasion.

The Indictment alleges that between about 2000 and September 12, 2005, the defendants charged personal expenses and then, without authority, paid for them with checks drawn on an bank account of their employer, Provencher's, and for the purpose of executing the scheme to defraud caused interstate wires to be used to collect the embezzled checks. The Indictment also alleges that the defendants failed to report the embezzled funds on their tax returns in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004, thereby evading almost \$50,000 in income taxes.

The defendants face up to 20 years in prison for each of the 75 wire fraud charges and up to 5 years in prison on each of the 4 tax evasion charges. In addition, they face fines of up to \$250,000 on each count and forfeiture of a sum of money equal to the amount derived from the scheme, including all property

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traceable to it.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, the Biddeford Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

Silsby further advised that an indictment is merely an accusation, and that the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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