

A New York Postmaster Who Couldn't Say "No" Gets Jail Time

Parents will do almost anything for their children. But stealing? That is another matter entirely. Yet that is exactly what one New York Postmaster claimed she did. She stole U.S. Postal Service money orders to pay car loans for her children, because she just could not say "no." She also paid several of her own bills: Car loan and utility, cable, department store and banking credit card bills – all courtesy of the Postal Service.

During an investigation, OIG special agents determined the New York Postmaster embezzled more than \$45,000 in stamp stock sales and misused 78 postal money orders, totaling more than \$41,000. Total amount stolen exceeded \$100,000. Although the Postmaster told OIG special agents she had stolen the postal funds because she struggled with personal and financial difficulties, the OIG learned the Postmaster had made numerous purchases while helping herself to postal money orders, including the purchase of a BMW and a Cadillac sport utility vehicle.

She won't be able to do much for her children without a job; she resigned from the Postal Service on January 15, 2008. In August 2008, the former Postmaster pled guilty to a one count Information for theft of government property. She won't have much of a chance to find another job in the immediate future. On December 24, 2008, a U.S. District Judge in the Western District of New York sentenced the former Postmaster to 15 months imprisonment, followed by 2 years supervised release. The Judge also ordered her to pay restitution of approximately \$85,000 to the Postal Service.