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**FAR ROCKAWAY WOMAN CHARGED WITH FRAUDULENT TRANSFER
OF STEPFATHER'S PROPERTY**

Allegedly Forged Victim's Signature To Transfer His House To Herself

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Far Rockaway woman has been indicted on grand larceny and other charges for allegedly forging the signature of her stepfather in an effort to transfer his house to herself.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of trying to steal the property of a senior citizen out from under him. This is a serious crime which will be vigorously prosecuted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Heather Harper, 42, of 122 Beach 27th Street, in Far Rockaway. The defendant is charged with second and third-degree grand larceny, second and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument, first and second-degree falsifying business records, first and second-degree offering a false instrument for filing, and first and second-degree identity theft. The defendant faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted. The defendant was arraigned today before Queens Supreme Court Justice James P. Griffin and released on \$25,000 bail. She was ordered to return to court on September 15, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant transferred the residence of her stepfather, Reynold Yearwood, 66, located at 122 Beach 27th Street in Far Rockaway, to herself pursuant to a deed which was executed on February 19, 2007. The victim and the defendant's mother, Mary Yearwood, were involved in a contested divorce proceeding during the time of the alleged fraudulent transfer. A handwriting analysis performed by the New York City Police Department allegedly confirmed that the victim's signature on the deed, which transferred the property to the defendant, is not the victim's signature.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Richard A. Lewis and Patrick F. Dolan of the District Attorney's Detective Bureau under the supervision of Sergeant John W. Kenna, Lieutenant Robert J. Burke and the overall supervision of Chief Lawrence J. Festa and Deputy Chief Albert D. Velardi.

Assistant District Attorney Khadijah Muhammad-Starling, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, Kristen A. Kane, Chief of the Elder Fraud Unit, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Linda M. Cantoni of the Investigations Division.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.