



AG MARSHALL ANNOUNCES ARREST FOR THEFT OF MORE THAN \$38,000 BY SHELBY COUNTY WOMAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE DYING AND FRAUDULENTLY SOLICITED DONATIONS

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Steven T. Marshall announced the arrest yesterday of a Shelby County woman for two counts of first-degree theft by deception of at least \$38,000. Jennifer Flynn Cataldo, 37, of Sterrett, was arrested and taken to the Shelby County Jail, with a \$50,000 bond on each count.

The joint federal and state investigation is continuing, and the Attorney General's Office urges anyone with information or who may be a possible victim of Cataldo to contact the Criminal Trials Division by calling 334-353-1875.

On April 13, 2017, the Attorney General's Office began conducting a joint investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation into Cataldo. The investigation of Cataldo centered around her use of two online GoFundMe fundraising campaigns, through which she received more than \$38,000 from donors wishing to assist her with medical bills and a family vacation to Disney. The fundraising campaigns identified Cataldo as a terminal cancer patient. The investigation of Cataldo has uncovered that her claim of having terminal cancer was in fact not true. It is believed that Cataldo acted alone in the scheme.

With the assistance of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Cataldo was arrested yesterday afternoon on warrants from the Attorney General's Office. Attorney General Marshall thanked representatives of GoFundMe for their vigilance and cooperation in this matter.

No additional information concerning this matter may be released at this time due to the ongoing nature of this investigation. The case is expected to be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Criminal Trials Division.

Please see photos on next page.

**A warrant is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*





Jennifer Flynn Cataldo mugshot

A screenshot of a GoFundMe page titled "Jenny Flynn Cataldo Medical Care". The page shows a goal of \$20,000 with \$23,800 raised by 244 people in 7 months. It includes a "Donate Now" button, a "Share on Facebook" button, and a "Recent Donations" section showing a \$200 donation from "JA" made 1 hour ago. The page also features a photo of Jenny Flynn Cataldo with two people whose faces are redacted, and social media sharing options for Facebook and Twitter.

Photo of GoFundMe page