



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Investigative Unit

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Five People Indictment On Food Stamp Fraud In Harrison County

**(Canton)** On Wednesday, five people and one business in Deersville were indicted on food stamp fraud related crimes.

Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit began investigating after receiving a complaint of food stamp fraud taking place at Ferguson III, Inc., also known as the Deersville General Store, 212 West Main Street, in Deersville.

James Ferguson, 26; Sean E. Ager, 38; Paula Elliot, 47; Nicole A. Konanec, 33; Robert A. Schmidt, 53; and Ferguson III, Inc. were indicted for Illegal use of Supplemental Nutrition or Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program Benefits through Harrison County Court of Common Pleas Grand Jury.

"Food stamp fraud is a crime that impacts many, including the taxpayers," said Canton Agent-in-Charge John Campbell.

Harrison County Sheriff's Office worked jointly with OIU agents on this investigation.

To report food stamp fraud at a retail location, please contact the Ohio Investigative Unit at #677.

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*The Ohio Investigative Unit agents are plain-clothed fully sworn peace officers. OIU is charged with enforcing the state's liquor laws and is the only state law enforcement agency specifically tasked with investigating food stamp fraud crimes. Agents also investigate tobacco violations.*

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