

Ohio Investigative Unit



MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Man who used cellmate's information to fraudulently obtain benefits is indicted

(Toledo) – On July 26, a Lucas County Grand Jury indicted a Toledo man on food stamp fraud related charges after taking a former cellmate's information to obtain benefits.

In October 2015, agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit received a complaint that a man who has been incarcerated for several decades was receiving food stamp benefits. After investigating, agents determined Charles Lister, 58, opened accounts in the name of his former cellmate. Lister fraudulently received government documents and assistances such as food stamp, Social Security and medical benefits.

The grand jury indicted Lister on illegal use of food stamp benefits, forgery, telecommunications fraud, tampering with records and theft.

Agents, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General and the Social Security Administration conducted the investigation.

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The Ohio State Highway Patrol's 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. Follow OIU on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ohio-Investigative-Unit/165782203506269> and on Twitter by logging onto http://twitter.com/Ohio_OIU.