

Leon County Sheriff's Office  
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# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **\$78 K Fraud Closes Business Doors**

Tallahassee- Leon County Sheriff's Deputies arrest a Tallahassee woman after an investigation revealed she had stolen seventy-eight thousand dollars from a business where she worked as a bookkeeper.

On February 21, 2007 Lori Cuppet-Heitzman was arrested charging her with Money Laundering, Organized Scheme to Defraud, and Grand Theft. The investigation began when management from Oxygen Therapy Institute discovered discrepancies in their Tallahassee branch's financial statements. Indications from the investigation are Cuppet-Heitzman used the company's credit card to purchase personal items. She would then alter the statements prior to turning them into the company's accountant and auditors to show no misappropriations.

Detective David Knight, Financial Crimes Unit said "the investigation revealed that Cuppet-Heitzman was spending the company's money as though it was hers". Knight added "documents traced back to her spending reflected she was not only paying her bills but family member's bills too".

Cuppet-Heitzman is currently out on bond from the Leon County Jail.

Detective Knight said "this case is not closed; we are looking into other possible frauds involving Cuppet-Heitzman and others".

Oxygen Therapy Institute closed its Tallahassee branch after this incident.



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