



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304

www.leoncountysos.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Deputy Dave Teems

Date: September 12, 2019

LCSO Arrests Woman for Stealing Funds Raised for Tornado Victims

On April 19, 2019, the Leon County Sheriff's Office responded to the 11000 block of Woodville Highway in reference to a tree falling into a residence during a tornado. An eight-year-old girl died in the incident.

The same day, Amanda Strickland, who lived next door to the victim's family, opened a GoFundMe campaign to assist the family. The GoFundMe was linked to Strickland's personal bank account.

By April 26, 2019, the campaign had raised more than \$14,000. Strickland wrote a check to the family for \$13,000, the final amount on that date, after fees from GoFundMe were deducted.

Donations continued to come into the campaign until June 10, 2019, The total amount donated over the course of the campaign was more than \$21,000. Strickland never gave the victim's family any more money which had been collected.

After an interview with LCSO Financial Crimes detectives on September 11, 2019, Strickland was arrested and taken to the Leon County Detention Facility.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office would like to remind everyone to only give donations to known charities to ensure the proceeds are given to the intended cause.

ARRESTED:



Amanda R. Strickland

Date of Birth: 8/16/1995

CHARGES:

Fail to apply contributions in a manner substantially consistent with the solicitation



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