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Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

**For Immediate Release – August 16, 2004**

**Contact:** Pam Russell  
Public Information  
303-271-6905

**RE:** LEAP Program Eligibility Technician Cindy Guzman Pleads Guilty  
to Forgery

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Cindy Ann Guzman, DOB: 7-21-61, of Littleton, appeared today in Jefferson County District Court and pled guilty to one count of forgery, a class five felony. Guzman was an eligibility technician for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), administered by Jefferson County Human Services, and is one of seven women charged last fall with fraudulently taking money from the program.

Guzman fraudulently submitted LEAP applications in the name of her college-aged daughter who lived on campus, but occasionally stayed in the family basement. According to court records, Guzman created a fraudulent address for the daughter and gave the funds (\$1681 over three years), in the form of Quest cards (debit cards that can be used anywhere debit or credit cards are taken), to her daughter.

The LEAP Program runs October through April and provides assistance for low-income residents of Jefferson County with their energy bills or for emergency furnace repairs. The maximum annual award for help with energy bills is \$700 per winter. The total loss to the program was \$33,500.

Guzman could potentially face between 1-3 years in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on October 8, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. in Division 11 of the Jefferson County District Court.

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