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Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

**For Immediate Release – July 23, 2004**

**Contact:** Pam Russell  
Public Information  
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**RE:** LEAP worker Topliss Sentenced to Probation and County Jail

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Holly C. Topliss, DOB: 6-9-74, of Louisville, appeared today in Jefferson County District Court and was sentenced to six years probation and one year county jail, as a condition of probation, for having taken funds from the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) administered by Jefferson County Department of Social Services.

Topliss is one of seven people who, in November, 2003, District Attorney Dave Thomas charged with fraudulently accessing money available through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). The Program is administered through the Jefferson County Division of Human Services (DHS). She was a seasonal worker with the program.

In 2002-2003, on six different occasions, Topliss fraudulently applied for LEAP benefits (\$5,890) in the names of family members who live out of state, using fictitious addresses and forging their names. She then used the funds for her own benefit. She went as far as to apply for, and receive, funds in the name of her deceased step-mother. Prosecutor Matt Durkin told the Court that Topliss had admitted taking some of these funds to pay off her credit cards before taking her family to Disneyland.

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On May 24, 2004, Topliss pled guilty to felony theft (a class 4 felony), forgery (a class 5 felony) and embezzlement (a class 5 felony).

Of the others charged, Dolly Grismore-Davis, the lead worker of the Program, pled guilty on July 19 to theft, forgery and embezzlement of public funds and is scheduled to be sentenced on September 26 at 8:00 a.m. in Division 11 of the Jefferson County District Court. The others are in various stages of the criminal justice process. Three have trial dates set for this fall.

Topliss came to her sentencing hearing today prepared to pay the \$5890 in restitution. She was remanded to the custody of the Jefferson County Sheriff today.

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