



DAVID J. THOMAS  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

**For Immediate Release – October 8, 2004**

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

**RE:** Guzman and Oday Sentenced in Fraud from LEAP

---

Today, both Cindy Ann Guzman, DOB: 7-21-61, of Littleton and Linda Jo Oday, DOB; 11-12-56, of Arvada appeared in Jefferson County District Court for sentencing. These two women were charged for having fraudulently accessed funds through the Jefferson County Human Services Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). In November 2003, seven women were charged for their various roles in defrauding this program which is designed to provide relief from energy costs to low-income families. The aggregate loss to the program was \$33,500.

Cindy Guzman was sentenced to two years probation and 90 days in the county jail with work release authorized. She pled guilty on August 16 to one count of forgery, a class five felony. Guzman had been an employee of the Human Services Department for 11 years, and had been a season worker with this program for seven years. She applied for and received LEAP funds in her daughter's name, using a fraudulent variation of her own home address on the application. The daughter either lived at home with Guzman or at an address in Colorado Springs, while she attended college there, during the three years (2001, 2002, and 2003) in which the fraudulent applications were submitted and LEAP funds were provided.

Linda Oday was also sentenced today, to one year unsupervised probation. On August, 18, she pled guilty to forgery. A neighbor of the Dolly Grismore-Davis, Oday accepted benefits on her power bill that she was not entitled to. Grismore-Davis submitted the application in her name.

Dolly Ann Grismore-Davis, DOB: 11-11-54, of Arvada, was sentenced to three years in prison on September 16, 2004. As lead worker, the greatest loss to the program was attributed to her, \$23,175. Over the three years covered by the investigation, she fraudulently applied for LEAP funds and the benefit was paid to her or her friends or family. She pled guilty to felony theft, forgery and embezzlement of public property on July 19, 2004.

On September 24, Sophia Gardner, DOB: 9-29-44, of Denver, was sentenced to two years probation and 90 days in the county jail as a condition of probation, with work release authorized. Gardner, who had been an eligibility technician with the program, pled guilty to embezzlement of public property and conspiracy to commit theft on August 6, 2004.

Holly Topliss, DOB: 6-9-74, of Louisville, was sentenced to six years probation and one year county jail with work release. She fraudulently applied for LEAP funds on six different occasions in the amount of \$5,890. In May 2004, she pled guilty to felony theft and embezzlement of public property.

In the case of each of the women working with this program (Topliss, Gardner, Guzman, and Grismore-Davis), District Court Judge Steven Munsinger cited at sentencing their breach of the public trust, their duty to the taxpayers and his need to send a community message in imposing strict sentences. On September 19, 2004, at Mrs. Grismore-Davis' sentencing, he said, "The public must be able to have confidence in and rely upon the integrity of their public servants." Today, at Cindy Guzman's sentencing, he said, "You were a public official and had the public's treasury at your hand. You breached that trust."

Melissa Oday was charged with misdemeanor theft. She pled guilty on June 24, and was granted a one-year deferred judgment and sentence.

Margaret Irene Woods, DOB: 12-23-52, of Lakewood, worked in Support Services at the Department of Human Services. She had been charged with one count of felony theft and one count of embezzlement of public property. In May, 2004, she pled not guilty and has a jury trial scheduled for February, 2005.

**- end -**