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Will Executor Charged with Stealing from Princeton Woman's Estate

HOPEWELL – A 42-year-old Hopewell woman was arrested this morning and charged with stealing more than \$75,000 from the estate of the late Cornelia Hoeffel Scott of Princeton.

Sharon Fenton, of Crestview Drive, was taken into custody at her boyfriend's Crusher Road residence early Wednesday morning by detectives with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

Prosecutor's detectives also executed search warrants at Fenton's residence, at 20 West Franklin Avenue in Pennington, and at a storage unit at Buxton's Boxes in Ewing. Members of the Hopewell Township Police Department and the Pennington Police Department assisted.

The case was referred to the prosecutor's Economic Crime Unit in March 2010 by the county Surrogate's Office and the Chancery Court. An investigation revealed that Fenton, who was the executor of Scott's will, transferred at least \$75,000 from Scott's estate into her own business and personal bank accounts although she was not listed as a beneficiary in the will.

The investigation also revealed that Fenton was handling Scott's finances, including her medical bills, for several years prior to her death. Fenton operates Medical Claims Relief, an insurance claim processing service located in Pennington, NJ.

Fenton is charged with one count of second-degree theft by unlawful taking and one count of second-degree theft by failure to make required disposition. Second-degree crimes carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in state prison and a \$150,000 fine.

Mercer County Superior Court Judge Robert C. Billmeier set Fenton's bail at \$50,000.

Bocchini credited Detective Tracey McKeown of his Economic Crime Unit with the investigation leading to the charges. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutor James Scott, chief of the ECU.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with relevant information should contact prosecutor's Detective Tracey McKeown at (609) 278-4864.

Despite having been charged, all persons are presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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