



TERREBONNE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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News Release

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Sheriff Vernon Bourgeois says that on October 6, 2010, Wednesday Terrebonne Parish detectives began an investigation in reference to a possible money scam. The black female is described as approximately 60 years of age, with a gold tooth in the front of her mouth, wearing dark blue scrubs and a hair net. She appears to be approximately 5'06" - 5'10" and weight about 180 pounds.

The black female told them a sad story about her great grandchild needing a medical device and needing money to purchase the machine. She further told them she would repay the money as soon as her husband returned from work. Feeling sorry for the child, the business owners gave the lady money.

On Thursday, 10-7-2010, after this article was printed in the Houma Daily Courier TPSO detectives received more calls in reference to additional victims who were scammed.

Detectives received calls from two local churches and five additional companies who called and said they gave the suspect money. Detectives began checking some of the local casinos and learned that a female fitting the description of the suspect had been there playing video poker.

On October 8, 2010, Friday morning at about 11:00 a.m. Houma Police detectives were contacted by a local business owner who gave the suspect money. The suspect gave the owner her cell phone number. The business owner then called the suspect's cell phone number and told her that after she left he felt sorry for her and he collected some more money for her. The suspect then agreed to meet with the owner in order to receive more money. She agreed to meet them at the Leonard Chabert Medical Center.

Detectives then arrived at the hospital and took the suspect into custody. She is identified as Katherine Celestine age-60, 224 ½ South Hollywood Rd. Houma. Celestine was transported to the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office where she was questioned by detectives.

Celestine admitted to scamming nine businesses out of money to include two churches for a total of over \$3800; she lost of this money playing video poker.

Katherine Celestine was transported to the Terrebonne Parish Jail where she was booked and jailed. Celestine is currently on probation for theft.

Sheriff Vernon Bourgeois