

## ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

Post Office Box 304700 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4700  
Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240  
Email: [asc@asc.alabama.gov](mailto:asc@asc.alabama.gov) Website: [www.asc.alabama.gov](http://www.asc.alabama.gov)

### **Auburn Man Sentenced After Pleading Guilty to Aggravated Theft by Deception**

**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (January 16, 2025)** – Lee County District Attorney Jessica Ventiere and Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) Director Amanda Senn announced that James Clayton Langford, III, a 50-year-old resident of Auburn, Alabama, was sentenced to 15 years, split to serve 2 years with a 10-year probationary period for committing one count of aggravated theft by deception, a felony, by the Honorable Judge Christopher J. Hughes of the 37<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court. He was also ordered to pay \$611,292.65 in restitution to the victim, a 91-year-old widow. He is currently out on bond.

Langford acted in a fiduciary capacity for the victim, serving as the trustee on her bank account. He gained the family's confidence through a long-standing business and personal relationship. To avoid detection, he stole the money in small increments over a two-year period of time. Langford's criminal activity only stopped when concerned family members became suspicious and reported his activity to law enforcement. Throughout his lengthy and deceitful scheme, Langford stole over \$611,000 from the victim's account and used these funds for his personal use.

"Langford's sinister actions, while he was appointed as fiduciary to take care of his elderly victim, are reprehensible in a way that is difficult for many people to grasp. Everyone needs to be extremely vigilant in helping protect their elderly family members, friends, and clients from becoming victims," said Director Amanda Senn. Senn also commended the work of the Alabama Legislature in passing the "Aggravated Theft by Deception" Act, which Governor Kay Ivey signed into law in 2019.

"This law focuses on criminals looking to steal large sums of money and allows for incarceration of those who steal from individuals and businesses. It also extends the probationary period to 10 years, which increases the time allowed for direct court oversight of criminals who are required to pay restitution to victims," said Senn.

The ASC cautions investors to thoroughly research any investment opportunity. Call the ASC at 1-800-222-1253 and ask for the registration department to check out persons offering investment opportunities, investment advice for a fee, and any products they offer. Contact the ASC to report suspected fraud, inappropriate securities business practices, or to obtain consumer information. Free investor education and fraud prevention materials are available at [www.asc.alabama.gov](http://www.asc.alabama.gov).

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