

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

MANALAPAN WOMAN ADMITS EMBEZZLING OVER \$100,000 FROM FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP BUSINESS

On May 24, 2010, Lynn Lormel, 50, of Manalapan Township, N.J., appeared in Monmouth County Superior Court and pled guilty to one count of second degree Theft by Deception. The charge relates to Lormel's conduct while she was an employee of Brock Farms Nursery in Freehold Township, N.J.

An investigation which was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office revealed that between April 2006 and July 2008, Brock Farms suffered a financial loss of approximately \$104,949.57 in cash as a result of an internal theft. The investigation revealed that Lormel, a manager in Brock Farms' wholesale division, repeatedly received cash payments from customers following sales of merchandise, retained the cash payments for herself, and then manipulated the corresponding invoices and sales orders in order to falsely reflect that the sales were made to different customers. By manipulating the paperwork, Lormel was able to conceal both the fact of the sale and the payment of the missing cash.

The accounting software utilized by Brock Farms, which had been installed in 2006, contained an "audit trail" feature that allowed Brock Farms employees to research the history of each sale. The investigation revealed that Lormel's username and password had been entered each time an invoice or sales order had been manipulated to conceal a cash sale. Lormel was employed by Brock Farms from 2002 until she was terminated in July 2008.

An analysis of Lormel's personal bank account records was conducted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. The analysis showed that Lormel made numerous cash deposits which in total were approximately \$67,492.83 in excess of her take-home pay

during the period of time that Brock Farms' accounting software documented the thefts. Many of Lormel's deposits into her personal bank account were attributable to her paychecks. Many of the remaining deposits were cash deposits and corresponded with cash payments which were made to Brock Farms but were missing from Brock Farms' records.

Lormel was arrested by Detectives from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on February 10, 2010. She was released on the same day after posting bail in the amount of \$50,000 which was set by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Edward M. Neafsey.

Lormel is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Mellaci on August 20, 2010. Lormel entered her guilty plea in accordance with a negotiated plea agreement which was approved by Brock Farms. In accordance with the terms of the negotiated plea agreement, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will recommend that Judge Mellaci sentence Lormel to a three year State Prison term, and that he order Lormel to pay restitution to Brock Farms.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "Lormel engaged in a continuous theft over an extended period of time. Not only were her actions calculated and deceptive, she also breached the trust of her employer."

The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Nicole Colucci. Lormel is represented by Jason Volet, Esquire, of Freehold Borough, N.J.

Released: May 24, 2010