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Attorney General Marshall Announces Indictment of Walker County Residents for Theft of \$680,000 from Providence Water Authority

(Montgomery, Ala) – Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall today announced the indictments* of Walker County residents Sharon Lei Windham, 61, and her son, Cody Warren Windham, 40, in connection with significant theft from the Providence Water Authority. Sharon is charged with two counts of theft of property in the first degree and one count of theft of services in the first degree, and Cody is charged with one count of theft of property in the first degree. The theft total against the Authority charged at the indictment is \$680,305.14.

The Indictment alleges that Sharon stole \$539,804.10 in customer cash payments intended for the Authority. Sharon failed to pay her water bill, resulting in \$3,975.55 in unpaid charges. Additionally, she illegally provided unauthorized water services for others totaling \$17,925.49.

Sharon's mother, Marie Windham, 81, who was employed by the Authority, subcontracted her work to Sharon. Marie Windham is not charged with any crime.

Cody Windham, who was not employed by the Providence Water Authority, is charged with one count of Theft of Property. The indictment alleges he stole \$118,600 from the Authority by using a checkbook belonging to the Authority.

The charges against Sharon Windham are Class B felonies punishable by between two and twenty years in the Alabama Department of Corrections and fines of up to \$30,000. The charge against Cody Windham is also a Class B felony.

The case is being prosecuted by the Attorney General's Special Prosecutions Division. No further information about the investigation or the alleged crimes will be released at this time.

**An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

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