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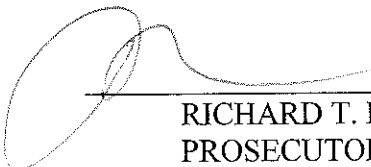
PRESS RELEASE

SENTENCED: FRANCES M. WISE
77 Woodlawn Rd.
Phillipsburg, New Jersey 08865
Date of Birth: July 20, 1957

On February 10, 2017, Frances M. Wise was sentenced to seven (7) years New Jersey State Prison as a result of a Jury Trial Verdict on October 12, 2016. A Warren County Jury in Superior Court, before the Honorable H. Matthew Curry, J.S.C., found the defendant guilty of three separate Second Degree charges. Those charges were: Second Degree Theft, Second Degree Misapplication of Entrusted Property as a Fiduciary and Second Degree Theft by Deception. The defendant was sentenced on the Theft by Deception and Misapplication of Entrusted Property as the two Theft counts merged for sentencing purposes. The defendant was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$143,000 to the victim Mrs. Josephine Backskai. Defendant Wise was represented at trial by Paul Bender, Esq., and at sentencing by Neil Gillespie, Esq. Assistant Prosecutor Amy Knutsen represented the State at trial and Assistant Prosecutor Naya A. Tsang represented the State at sentencing.

The victim, Josephine Backskai and the victim's current Power of Attorney, Lisa Marinelli, who initially discovered and reported the theft after she took over the duties in 2013, spoke at sentencing. The defendant also spoke at sentencing. The defendant's attorney, Neil Gillespie, requested the Court stay the defendant's sentence pending an appeal. This request was denied.

Approved by:



RICHARD T. BURKE
PROSECUTOR

Dated: March 13, 2017