



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO FORMER LIBERTY, MO., RESIDENTS INDICTED IN \$231,203 FRAUD SCHEME**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two former Liberty, Mo., residents who operated a Northland construction company have been indicted by a federal grand jury for a \$231,203 fraud scheme that involved a bank construction loan and a credit card account.

**Jay Charles Wantland**, 40, and **Suzanne M. Keisling**, 33, both former Liberty, Mo., residents who have been living in Ohio, were charged in a two-count indictment that was returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on April 1, 2003. That indictment was unsealed and made public today upon their arrest and initial appearance in federal court in Columbus, Ohio today. Graves explained that **Wantland** was detained without bond, and **Keisling** was released on bond.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Wantland** and **Keisling** defrauded Clayco State Bank of \$185,203.

According to the indictment, **Keisling** incorporated a construction company, C-Builders, on Aug. 20, 1998. C-Builders obtained two residential construction loans at Clayco State Bank to develop two lots at the Charleston Harbor subdivision in Kansas City, Mo. A \$190,400 loan was approved on Nov. 24, 1998, and a \$228,600 loan was approved on Feb. 5, 1999.

Graves explained that it is typical in these types of loans for the loan proceeds to be released by the bank to the builder upon the presentation of proof that the builder has expended the funds shown on the invoice on the home under construction. In order to execute their scheme and obtain the funds from Clayco State Bank, the indictment alleges that **Wantland** and **Keisling** presented altered and fabricated invoices to the bank to get their loan disbursements. Some invoices were totally contrived, the indictment alleges, while others were invoices that had been altered in some material way to deceive bank personnel into believing that the work had been

performed as stated.

In addition to bogus invoices, the indictment alleges that **Wantland** and **Keisling** supplied C-Builders checks to the bank ostensibly to show that the payments to subcontractors and suppliers had been made. However, according to the indictment, a significant number of these checks were never cashed by the named payee; hence, the funds represented by these checks never left the defendants' possession. Had the bank known that the checks were never processed for payment, it would not have made the disbursements of the loan draws as requested by the defendants.

As a result of this scheme, the defendants allegedly caused Clayco State Bank to incur a loss of \$185,203.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Wantland** and **Keisling** used a fraudulently obtained credit card between March 26, 1999 and Sept. 16, 1999 in Liberty. According to the indictment, the defendants applied for an American Express credit card for their business, C-Builders, on March 26, 1999. On the application for the card, they allegedly falsely indicated that the applicant was Keisling's brother. In reality, the indictment says, he was totally unaware that the defendants has used his name, his birth date, and his Social Security number on the application for the credit card.

After the credit card application was approved, the indictment alleges, **Wantland** and **Keisling** used the cards to purchase goods and service. Between the time the card was approved by American Express, and the time the defendants left town in June of 1999, they had a balance of approximately \$45,901 in unpaid charges.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Weinfurt. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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