

DISTRICT COURT, ARAPAHOE COUNTY, COLORADO  7325 S. Potomac Street Centennial, CO 80112	DATE FILED: September 12, 2022 10:32 AM FILING ID: D71F7AC5B1E57 CASE NUMBER: 2022CR2080
<b>THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF          COLORADO</b>  Plaintiff.  <b>vs.</b>  <b>DAWN MARIE JONES,          A.K.A., DAWN MARIE JOHNSON, DAWN          MARIE CHRISTIAN, DAWN MARIE WEBB,          DAWN MARIE CASTELO          (DOB: 10/04/1967),</b>  Defendant.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>COURT USE ONLY</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
PHILIP J. WEISER, Attorney General DANIEL A. PIETRAGALLO* Senior Assistant Attorney General Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center 1300 Broadway, 9th Floor Denver, CO 80203 (720) 508-6000 Registration Number: 41794 *Counsel of Record	Case No: 2022CR2080  Div: 408          Courtroom:
<b>COLORADO STATE GRAND JURY INDICTMENT</b>	

Of the 2021-2022 term of the Denver District Court in the year 2022; the 2021-2022 Colorado State Grand Jurors, chosen, selected and sworn in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Colorado, upon their oaths, present the following:

COUNT ONE:        THEFT – SERIES – \$5,000 - \$20,000,  
                           C.R.S. § 18-4-401(1),(2)(g), (Class 5 Felony) {08A14}

COUNT TWO:        THEFT – SERIES – \$5,000 - \$20,000,  
                           C.R.S. § 18-4-401(1),(2)(g), (Class 5 Felony) {08A14}

COUNT THREE:     THEFT – SERIES – \$5,000 - \$20,000,  
                           C.R.S. § 18-4-401(1),(2)(g), (Class 5 Felony) {08A14}

COUNT FOUR: CYBERCRIME – COMMIT THEFT – \$20,000 - \$100,000,  
C.R.S. § 18-5.5-102(1)(d),(3)(a)(VII), (Class 4 Felony) {1503R}

COUNT FIVE: ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT,  
C.R.S. § 18-8-306, (Class 4 Felony) {24051}

COUNT SIX: FORGERY,  
C.R.S. § 18-5-102(1)(c), (Class 5 Felony) {1001C}

COUNT SEVEN: FORGERY,  
C.R.S. § 18-5-102(1)(c), (Class 5 Felony) {1001C}

COUNT EIGHT: FILING A FALSE TAX RETURN,  
C.R.S. § 39-21-118(4), (Class 5 Felony) {40024}

<p>DISTRICT COURT, CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO</p> <p>1437 Bannock Street Denver, CO 80202</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲</p>
<p><b>THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO</b></p> <p>Plaintiff.</p> <p>vs.</p> <p><b>DAWN MARIE JONES, A.K.A., DAWN MARIE JOHNSON, DAWN MARIE CHRISTIAN, DAWN MARIE WEBB, DAWN MARIE CASTELO,</b></p> <p><b>DOB: 10/04/1967,</b></p> <p>Defendant.</p>	
<p>PHILIP J. WEISER, Attorney General DANIEL A. PIETRAGALLO #41794* Senior Assistant Attorney General 1300 Broadway, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Denver, CO 80203 (720) 508-6000 *Counsel Of Record</p>	<p>Case No.: 2021CR001</p> <p>Ctrm.: 259</p>
<p><b>COLORADO STATE GRAND JURY INDICTMENT</b></p>	

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<p><b>COLORADO STATE GRAND JURY INDICTMENT</b></p>	

Of the 2021-2022 term of the City and County of Denver Court in the year 2022, the 2021-2022 Colorado State Grand Jurors, chosen, selected and sworn in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Colorado, upon their oaths, present the following:

## ESSENTIAL FACTS

The Defendant, DAWN MARIE JONES ("JONES"), fraudulently obtained \$35,761.00 in unemployment benefits by providing false information to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE).

JONES filed for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program on or about May 19, 2020. A review of that application indicates that JONES was intentionally deceptive while answering several questions on that application. This deception allowed her to receive benefits under the PUA program, that she would not have received had she been truthful.

The federal PUA program was established by the Corona Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) in 2020 to provide thirty-nine weeks of unemployment benefits to self-employed individuals, gig workers, and other independent contractors. The United States Department of Labor (USDOL) has issued an Unemployment Policy Letter that instructs that all PUA claims filed with false information, are ruled ineligible due to fraud and are completely overpaid and are subject to penalty.

JONES provided false information in response to numerous questions on the unemployment insurance application. Those include, but are not limited to:

- When asked about her "Primary Occupation" JONES answered, "Insurance Sales Agent". JONES was not licensed to sell insurance in Colorado at the time she filed this claim and previously had her license to sell insurance revoked by the Colorado Division of Insurance.
- JONES represented, "I am temporarily unable to provide professional services in the manner I did prior to COVID-19, as a result of COVID-19." In fact, JONES was incarcerated in the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) until April 8, 2020, when she was transferred to the Arapahoe County Residential Center (ACRC).
- When answering, "I am a gig worker" JONES indicated "yes." Again, JONES was not employed, or self-employed, prior to her transfer to Community Corrections because she was in custody of CDOC.
- When answering, "What was the last date you worked and earned as a gig economy worker", Jones wrote "04/08/2020". That was the date JONES was transferred from CDOC to Community Corrections. She could not have earned any money on that day or during the time that she was incarcerated in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

- JONES further misrepresented, “I am at a Denver Halfway house that has COVID-19 here (ACRC) and they have us on lockdown because someone here has had Covid, and we have been on lockdown since I arrived on 04/08/2020.” Investigator Ann Smith-Blaise from CDLE spoke with the director of Arapahoe County Residential Center (ACRC) and confirmed that the facility was never on lockdown because of COVID, nor was JONES ever in quarantine.

In addition to being paid UI benefits under the PUA program by making fraudulent statements, JONES also found employment and worked while requesting and receiving UI benefits. When the PUA program ended, JONES filed for Standard Unemployment with CDLE.

Under Standard Unemployment, claimants may work, part-time, less than 32 hours, while receiving unemployment. They can earn up to their weekly benefit amount, in this case JONES initial weekly benefit amount was \$223.00, but was increased to \$403.00, after she filed for Standard Unemployment. JONES earned more than her weekly benefit amount, each week she was employed; therefore, making her ineligible to receive benefits for those weeks.

Claimants request UI benefits weekly through an automated system called MYUI+. This system records claimants’ answers to questions about employment and their ability and availability to accept employment if a position was offered to them. In addition, claimants are warned several times about misreporting and committing fraud. These questions are very specific. For each week that JONES requested benefits, while she was employed, she failed to report any hours worked for the above employers, nor wages earned.

**COUNT ONE**

**THEFT – SERIES – \$5,000 - \$20,000**

**C.R.S. § 18-4-401(1),(2)(g) – (F5)**

On or about and between May 22, 2020 and November 16, 2020, DAWN MARIE JONES, unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly obtained or exercised control over a thing of value, namely: money, of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) twice or more within a period of six months, with an aggregate value of five thousand dollars or more but less than twenty thousand dollars, without authorization, or by threat or deception, and intended to deprive the victim permanently of its use or benefit; in violation of section 18-4-401(1)(a),(2)(g), C.R.S.

**COUNT TWO**

**THEFT – SERIES – \$5,000 - \$20,000**

**C.R.S. § 18-4-401(1),(2)(g) – (F5)**

On or about and between November 23, 2020 and May 19, 2021, DAWN MARIE JONES, unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly obtained or exercised control over a thing of value, namely: money, of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) twice or more within a period of six months, with an aggregate value of five thousand dollars or more but less than twenty thousand dollars, without authorization, or by threat or deception, and intended to deprive the victim permanently of its use or benefit; in violation of section 18-4-401(1)(a),(2)(g), C.R.S.

**COUNT THREE**

**THEFT – SERIES – \$5,000 - \$20,000**

**C.R.S. § 18-4-401(1),(2)(g) – (F5)**

On or about and between May 26, 2021 and September 8, 2021, DAWN MARIE JONES, unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly obtained or exercised control over a thing of value, namely: money, of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) twice or more within a period of six months, with an aggregate value of five thousand dollars or more but less than twenty thousand dollars, without authorization, or by threat or deception, and intended to deprive the victim permanently of its use or benefit; in violation of section 18-4-401(1)(a),(2)(g), C.R.S.



**COUNT FOUR**  
**CYBERCRIME (THEFT)**  
C.R.S. 18-5.5-102(1)(D),(3) – (F4)

On or about and between May 19, 2020 and September 8, 2021, DAWN MARIE JONES unlawfully, feloniously, and knowingly accessed a computer, computer network, or computer system, or any part thereof to commit theft, and the loss, damage, value of services, or thing of value taken, or cost of restoration or repair was twenty thousand dollars or more but less than one hundred thousand dollars; in violation of section 18-5.5-102 (1)(d),(3)(a)(VII), C.R.S.

**The Essential Facts and all other facts in support of the charges alleged herein are incorporated by reference. Additional facts in support of the offenses as set forth in Counts One through Four are as follows:**

1. On or about and between May 19, 2020 and November 16, 2020, JONES provided false information in support of her ongoing Unemployment Insurance claims that resulted in the overpayment of benefits, in the amount of \$16,736.00.
2. On or about and between November 23, 2020 and May 19, 2021, JONES provided false information in support of her ongoing Unemployment Insurance claims that resulted in the overpayment of benefits, in the amount of \$11,292.00.
3. On or about and between May 26, 2021 and September 8, 2021, JONES provided false information in support of her ongoing Unemployment Insurance claims that resulted in the overpayment of benefits, in the amount of \$7,733.00.
4. On or about and between May 19, 2020 and September 8, 2021, JONES was required to log into a computer network or computer system and regularly verify income. JONES was required to provide weekly certifications about hours worked and renew her request for benefits on a weekly basis. JONES repeatedly accessed this computer system and provided false information about her work, in order to commit Theft from CDLE.
5. On or about and between May 19, 2020 and September 7, 2021, JONES repeatedly accessed a computer network or computer system to commit Theft from CLDE. The total amount stolen from CDLE as a result JONES' deliberate misrepresentations was \$35,761.00.

**COUNT FIVE**  
**ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A PUBLIC SERVANT**  
C.R.S. § 18-8-306 – (F4)

On or about and between May 19, 2020 and September 8, 2021, DAWN MARIE JONES, unlawfully and feloniously attempted to influence CDLE Executive Director Joseph Barela and/or his employees and designees, a public servant, by means of deceit, with the intent thereby to alter or affect the public servant's decision, vote, opinion, or action concerning a matter which was to be considered or performed by the public servant or the agency or body of which the public servant was a member; in violation of section 18-8-306, C.R.S.

**COUNT SIX**  
**FORGERY OF CHECKS OR COMMERCIAL INSTRUMENTS**  
C.R.S. § 18-5-102 (1)(C) – (F5)

On or about May 19, 2020, DAWN MARIE JONES, with the intent to defraud the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), unlawfully, feloniously, and falsely made, completed, altered, or uttered a written instrument which was or which purported to be, or which was calculated to become or to represent if completed, a deed, will, codicil, contract, assignment, commercial instrument, promissory note, or other instrument which document did or may have evidenced, created, transferred, terminated, or otherwise affected a legal right, interest, obligation, or status, namely: a false application for Unemployment Insurance; in violation of section 18-5-102(1)(c), C.R.S.

**COUNT SEVEN**  
**FORGERY OF CHECKS OR COMMERCIAL INSTRUMENTS**  
C.R.S. § 18-5-102 (1)(C) – (F5)

On or about September 20, 2020, DAWN MARIE JONES, with the intent to defraud the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), unlawfully, feloniously, and falsely made, completed, altered, or uttered a written instrument which was or which purported to be, or which was calculated to become or to represent if completed, a deed, will, codicil, contract, assignment, commercial instrument, promissory note, or other instrument which document did or may have evidenced, created, transferred, terminated, or otherwise affected a legal right, interest, obligation, or status, namely: a false certification for Unemployment Insurance; in violation of section 18-5-102(1)(c), C.R.S.

**The Essential Facts and all other facts in support of the charges alleged herein are incorporated by reference. Additional facts in support of the offenses as set forth in Counts Five through Seven are as follows:**

6. On or about and between May 19, 2020 and September 8, 2021, JONES provided false information in support of her ongoing Unemployment Insurance claim, that resulted in the overpayment of benefits, in the amount of \$35,761.00.

7. In providing such information, JONES attempted to influence CDLE Executive Director Joseph Barela or his employees and designees, by means of deceit, with the intent thereby to alter or affect their decision concerning the administration of Unemployment Insurance benefits.
8. JONES defrauded CDLE by providing materially false information on her application for Unemployment Insurance. These misrepresentations caused the completion of a written instrument which affected JONES legal right to collect Unemployment Insurance and CDLE's obligation to pay such unemployment insurance.
9. On or about September 20, 2020, JONES provided false information in support of her ongoing Unemployment Insurance claim, that resulted in the completion of a written document that affected JONES legal right to collect Unemployment Insurance and CDLE's obligation to pay such unemployment insurance

**COUNT EIGHT**  
**FILING A FALSE TAX RETURN**  
C.R.S. § 39-21-118(4) – (F5)

On or about April 16, 2021, DAWN MARIE JONES, unlawfully, feloniously, and willfully made and subscribed a return, statement, or other document, which contained or was verified by a written declaration that it was made under the penalties of perjury, and which the defendant did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter; in violation of section 39-21-118(4), C.R.S.

**The Essential Facts and all other facts in support of the charges alleged herein are incorporated by reference. Additional facts in support of the offenses as set forth in Count Eight are as follows:**

10. On or about April 16, 2021, JONES submitted a tax return to the Colorado Department of Revenue, under penalty of perjury, that failed to include all income from the 2020 tax year and provided materially false information. Specifically, JONES failed to include any income received from unemployment benefits.

11. For the 2020 tax year, JONES failed to report unemployment insurance income in the amount of \$19,874.

PHILIP J. WEISER,  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:

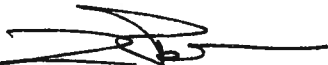


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Daniel A. Pietragallo, Reg. No. 41794  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Justice Section

The 2021 - 2022 State Grand Jury presents the within Indictment, and the same is hereby  
ORDERED FILED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.

Pursuant to C.R.S. 13-73-107, the Court hereby designates **Arapahoe County**, Colorado, as the  
county of venue for the purposes of trial.

  
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CHRISTOPHER J. BAUMANN  
Chief Judge, Second Judicial District