



PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Law
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ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES SENTENCES OF MOTHER & DAUGHTER IN NIGERIAN INTERNET DATING SCAM

DENVER-After announcing [indictments in June 2012 under the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act against daughter Tracy Vasseur and her mother Karen Vasseur](#) of Brighton for their roles in a “Nigerian internet romance scam,” Attorney General John Suthers today announced the sentencing outcomes. The Vasseurs stole more than \$1 million dollars from 374 victims throughout the United States and from 40 other countries.

“Not only did this mother-daughter duo break the law, they broke hearts worldwide,” said Suthers. “It is fitting that they received stiff sentences for their unconscionable crimes committed in the name of love and the United States military,” continued Suthers.

Tracy Vasseur received a 15-year sentence with the Department of Corrections (DOC) plus five years parole. In addition, she received a four year DOC sentence with three years parole to be run consecutively for a total of 19 years. The additional four year sentence stemmed from a case in which Vasseur was free on bond from the Nigerian case and committed several new crimes related to trying to gain control over her children’s inheritance and for attempting to influence a public servant which is a Class Four felony.

Karen Vasseur pled guilty in Adams County District Court to Count One under the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act. She was sentenced to 12-years with the Department of Corrections (DOC), plus five years parole, to run concurrent to the 10-year DOC sentence she received for multiple counts of theft from at-risk adults in Weld County. She falsely represented to victims that she had inherited millions of dollars from a military friend in Nigeria and would able to provide them with unsecured loans if they would pay an origination fee upfront. Vasseur never provided the loans yet kept thousands of dollars in payments. Restitution will be determined at a later date.

The Office of the Attorney General worked in conjunction with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, the Brighton Police Department and the U.S. Secret Service to investigate, indict and prosecute the case.

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