



## YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Local Woman Charged with the Financial Exploitation of her Mother-in-Law**

**York, PA** – On July 18, 2019, the Office of the District Attorney filed charges against Donna Guiles, 54, of the 400 block of Maple St. in Columbia, PA. County Detectives assigned to this office and the York County Area Agency on Aging began investigating allegations of financial exploitation in January of this year, following concerns raised by officials at Union Community Bank in Lancaster.

Over the past seven months, investigators uncovered an elaborate scheme by Guiles to defraud 86 year old Ethel Edelman of \$157,343.18, which includes real estate valued at \$125,600.00 and 196 unauthorized charges against her bank account that did not benefit her due to her living situation. These charges included items from various grocery stores, hardware stores, beverage stores, Wine and Spirit shops, wireless internet, a furniture store, gasoline purchases, Direct TV, and home improvements on real estate she did not own. Accordingly, Guiles has been charged with Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition and Theft by Deception.

District Attorney Dave Sunday said, “Whether it be physical abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, elder abuse has become far too prevalent in society today. It’s disgusting to see our most vulnerable citizens preyed upon, and yet, that’s exactly what Donna Guiles did. She abused the trust she was given as Mrs. Edelman’s Power of Attorney. My office will continue to work with the York County Area Agency on Aging to identify victims and hold the perpetrators accountable.”

***Criminal charges, and any discussion thereof, are merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.***