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# **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** 12/21/04  
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## ***CON MAN ARRESTED FOR TRYING TO SCAM 76-YEAR-OLD WOMAN AND DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY***

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December 21, 2004--District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham today announced the arrest of Joacuin Scott, 32 years old, 1817 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia. According to the arrest report, the defendant was arrested today without incident at the State Office Building, Broad and Spring Garden, when he tried to claim \$6000.00 in insurance money from the account of a 76-year-old woman. An arrest warrant charged Scott with Theft by Unlawful Taking, Theft by Deception, Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds Received, two counts of forgery and related crimes. If convicted, Scott faces a maximum of forty-one years imprisonment and fines of up to \$105,000.

The arrest warrant affidavit charged that Scott forged the power of attorney of one Beulah Nelson, 76 years old. Nelson had been the named beneficiary in an insurance policy belonging to the late P.D. Ashford, Nelson's niece. When the insurance company, Liberty Life Insurance, could not locate Ms. Nelson, it turned over the policy's proceeds, \$6,000, to the Department of the Treasury, which then attempted to contact Ms. Nelson at the address they had on file. Scott was now residing at that address. He presented a forged power of attorney purportedly on behalf of Ms. Nelson along with other falsified documents and demanded that the Department pay him the proceeds of the policy.

The District Attorney's Office confirmed that even after the arrest warrant had been issued, unbeknown to Scott, Scott continued to call the Department of Treasury to demand "his" money. The Department of Treasury arranged for Scott to come to the State Office Building in Philadelphia on December 21, 2004 where, after Scott once again, and this time in person, made his demand, he was arrested by detectives from the District Attorney's Office.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is making arrangements to return the funds to the rightful owner.

Michael Chapel, Director of Investigative and Security Services for the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, investigated the matter on behalf of the Department of the Treasury. Police Officer Bryan Jackson and Assistant District Attorney Matthew Perks investigated the matter on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.