



# BCPO News



**Scott A. Coffina, Prosecutor**

**Philip S. Aronow**  
*First Assistant Prosecutor*

**Darren N. Anderson**  
*Chief of Detectives*

Joel Bewley  
BCPO Public Information Officer  
Desk: 609-265-5777  
Cell: 609-820-4407  
[jbewley@co.burlington.nj.us](mailto:jbewley@co.burlington.nj.us)

**May 8, 2019**

## **GoFundMe Defendant Indicted on Multiple Counts of Theft and Conspiracy**

Burlington County Prosecutor Scott Coffina announced that the remaining defendant who has not pled guilty in connection to the fictitious GoFundMe campaign was indicted yesterday for his role in the scam that misled donors into contributing more than \$402,000 to a fabricated cause.

Mark D'Amico, 39, of Florence, was indicted on charges of Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity (Second Degree), Conspiracy to Commit Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity (Second Degree), Theft by Deception (Second Degree), Conspiracy to Commit Theft by Deception (Second Degree), Elements of Computer Theft (Second Degree), and Misapplication of Entrusted Property (Second Degree).

The indictment was returned yesterday and signed by Prosecutor Coffina. An arraignment will be scheduled soon in Superior Court in Mount Holly.

D'Amico was charged late last year along with his girlfriend at the time, Katelyn McClure of Bordentown, 29, and Johnny Bobbitt, 36, of Philadelphia, with concocting a feel-good story that compelled more than 14,000 people to contribute money believing it would go to help Bobbitt, who was homeless and living on the streets of Philadelphia.

Bobbitt pled guilty in March to Conspiracy to Commit Theft by Deception (Second Degree), and was admitted into the Superior Court's drug court program when sentenced in April. The program allows those with addiction problems to seek treatment instead of being incarcerated. However, if Bobbitt fails to adhere to the tightly-structured regimen of treatment and recovery services, which includes frequent testing for drug use, he could be sentenced to five years in state prison.

Under the terms of an agreement with the Prosecutor's Office, McClure pled guilty in April to Theft by Deception (Second Degree) in exchange for a four-year term in state prison. The Hon. Christopher J. Garrenger, J.S.C., set sentencing for June 3.

As part of their plea agreements, both McClure and Bobbitt agreed to make restitution in the amount of \$402,766 and must testify against D'Amico.

*more...*

The trio's "Paying it Forward" GoFundMe campaign was created on November 10, 2017, soon after D'Amico took a picture of McClure and Bobbitt standing in front of the Girard Avenue exit ramp on Interstate 95 in Philadelphia. The fairy tale narrative that accompanied the photo indicated that McClure had run out of gas, and Bobbitt spent his last \$20 to help her get back on her way.

The campaign listed a goal of \$10,000 to provide Bobbitt with rent for an apartment, a reliable vehicle and six months of living expenses, among other things. But the incoming funds far exceeded their target, and were quickly spent by McClure and D'Amico on gambling and personal items such as a BMW, a New Year's trip to Las Vegas, a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon and Louis Vuitton hand bags.

Within a few months of the campaign's creation, all of the donated funds had been spent. Once he realized the money had been squandered, Bobbitt took civil action against D'Amico and McClure. He alleged in August 2018 through his attorneys that he had only received approximately \$75,000 of the funds raised on his behalf.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutor Andrew McDonnell, supervisor of the BCPO Financial Crimes Unit. The investigation was conducted by the Prosecutor's Office Financial Crimes Unit and High-Tech Crimes Unit, with assistance from the Florence Township Police Department.

*An indictment is merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.*

**END**