



BCPO News

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Evesham Woman Charged for COVID-related Impersonation of Public Official

EVESHAM TOWNSHIP – Burlington County Prosecutor Scott Coffina and Evesham Township Police Chief Christopher Chew announced that a 32-year-old township woman has been charged with impersonating a public official and threatening to shut down a township business, falsely claiming it had failed to adhere to COVID-19 isolation and cleaning protocols.

Jennifer Strumph, of the 100 block of South Elmwood Road, was charged with Computer Crime (Second Degree), Criminal Coercion with Intent to Harm Reputation (Third Degree) and Assuming a False Identity (Third Degree). She was taken into custody March 4 and released following a first appearance in Superior Court. The case will now be prepared for preparation to a grand jury for possible indictment.

The investigation, which began late last year, revealed that Strumph contacted a local plumbing business and pretended to be a contact tracer with the Burlington County Health Department.

The business owner subsequently paid employees more than \$5,100 in overtime to comply with the requirements set forth by Strumph, who also created a fictitious email address to help make the impersonation believable. Her motive is still being determined.

The criminal ruse was exposed after employees ultimately became suspicious and contacted police, who confirmed with Burlington County Health Department officials that the name Strumph had been using was not someone who was employed by the agency.

Anyone with questions about the County's contact tracing process is encouraged to visit <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testandtrace>.

Strumph will be prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutor Joseph Remy. The investigation was conducted by the Prosecutor's Office, with assistance from the Evesham Township Police Department. The lead investigator was BCPO Detective Nicholas Schieber.

All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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