

## Arizona Couple Charged for Creating 60 Ghost Families to Steal School Benefits



A Colorado couple has been charged with creating an elaborate web of fictional children and forged documents to illegally obtain over \$110,000 in educational funds.

Johnny Lee Bowers and Ashley Meredith Hewitt face 60 criminal counts, including conspiracy, fraudulent schemes, and multiple forgery charges, according to an indictment filed in Maricopa County Superior Court. The couple is accused of systematically exploiting

Arizona's Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) Program while residing out of state in Colorado.

The scheme, which prosecutors say ran from December 2022 to May 2024, involved submitting dozens of applications for nonexistent children with carefully crafted false identities. The defendants created entire fictional families, complete with forged birth certificates, utility bills, and lease agreements.

## **All In the Fake Family**

Rather than creating random individual applications, the defendants allegedly constructed entire fictional family units with carefully chosen names and relationships. The "Fox Family," "Gil Family," "Cole Family," and "Diaz Family" each had six children with coordinated documentation packages. This systematic approach suggests a level of narrative crafting rarely seen in educational fraud cases - they weren't just creating fake students, they were building elaborate fictional family trees.

The indictment details how the couple allegedly created multiple fictional families, which included parents and various children:

- The "Fox Family" with six nonexistent children named Erin, Poppy, Penny, Joyce, Elizabeth, and Grace
- The "Gil Family" with six fictitious children including Tucker, Vance, Wyatt, Arlo, Rocky, and Mikey
- The "Cole Family" with children supposedly named Micah, Sonny, Wilson, Ryder, Maverick, and Jack
- The "Diaz Family" featuring fabricated children Antonia, Juan, Raul, Crispian, Jorge, and Arturo

Every application they submitted required forged documentation which the couple carefully created to make the families appear more real. The indictment revealed that with each passing month, the couple got more sophisticated with the documentation they provided.

## **They Kept Getting More Sophisticated**

According to the indictment, the couple orchestrated multiple waves of applications, each supported by an intricate web of forged documents. For example, in December 2022, they allegedly submitted ESA applications #85525 through #85529 with falsified utility bills designed to establish Arizona residency. The following month, they escalated their efforts by presenting forged birth certificates for fictional children.

By early 2024, they had refined their approach, creating entire fictional family units like the "Gil Family," complete with coordinated documentation packages including both utility bills and birth certificates for six nonexistent children. The indictment specifically highlights application #133886, submitted in November 2023, where they allegedly created an entirely fictional child named "Erin Fox" with supporting documentation so convincing it initially passed the state's verification process.

Each wave of applications showed increasing sophistication, with the "Diaz Family" applications (#140338-140344) in February 2024 representing some of their most detailed forgeries, including carefully crafted utility bills that appeared to show consistent Arizona residence patterns despite the couple's actual residence in Colorado.

The couple also used techniques to space out applications over time to evade detection. By establishing longer intervals between applications, they knew that they were less likely to get caught.

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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

STATE OF ARIZONA,  
  
Plaintiff,

v.

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001),**  
*(Counts 1 through 60)*

**ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT aka  
ASHLEY HOPKINS (002),**  
*(Counts 1 through 60)*

Defendants

Cause No:

**95 SGJ 76**

**INDICTMENT**

CHARGING VIOLATIONS OF:

**COUNT 1: CONSPIRACY**, a Class 2  
Felony, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-1003;

**COUNT 2: FRAUDULENT SCHEMES  
AND ARTIFICES \$100,000 OR MORE**, a  
Class 2 Felony, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-  
2310(A);

**COUNTS 3 – 60: FORGERY**, a Class 4  
Felony, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-  
2002(A)(3);

The State Grand Jury accuses **JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001), AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, charging on this day of November 12, 2024 that in or from Maricopa County, Arizona:

**COUNT 1**

**CONSPIRACY, A CLASS 2 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, during a period beginning on or about December 4, 2022, and ending on or about May 3, 2024, defendants herein, with the intent to promote or aid the commission of an offense, did agree with one or more persons, both known to the State, that at least one of them or another person would engage in conduct constituting the offenses, in particular:

- 1) Fraud Schemes and Artifices, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-2310(A); and
- 2) Forgery, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-2002(A)(3); and
- 3) Money Laundering, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-2317(B)(1); and
- 4) Aggravated Taking Identity of Another Person or Entity, in violation of A.R.S. § 13-2009(A)(1).

In furtherance of this conspiracy and to effect the foregoing objects thereof, these defendants and their co-conspirators did commit numerous overt acts, including but not limited to the overt acts described in Counts 2 through Counts 30 of this Indictment (which are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full), in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-1003, 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

It was the goal of the conspiracy that the defendants, Colorado residents, obtain funds from the Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account Program (“ESA Program”) by submitting applications for children, both real and fictitious, with false, forged, or fraudulent documentation (i.e. birth certificates, utility bills, and/or lease agreements). The defendants received payments from the ESA Program totaling approximately \$110,000. They used this money for their own personal living expenses while continuing to reside in Colorado.

**COUNT 2**

**FRAUDULENT SCHEMES AND ARTIFICES, A CLASS 2 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, during a period beginning on or about December 4, 2022, and ending on or about May 3, 2024, pursuant to scheme or artifice to defraud, knowingly did obtain a benefit valued at \$100,000 or more from the ESA Program by means of fraudulent pretenses, representation, promises, or material omissions, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2310, 13-2310(C), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

This conduct occurred when **JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, knowingly obtained ESA Program funds in the amount of \$110,258.28 by submitting student applications with false, forged, or fraudulent information.

**COUNT 3**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #85525, #85526, #85527, and/or #85529, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 4**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #85522, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 5**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #85523, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 6**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #85524, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 7**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #85525, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 8**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information,

with the ESA application #85526, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 9**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #85527, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 10**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 4, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #85529, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 11**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 13, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #86388, #86389, #86390, and/or #86392, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.



**COUNT 12**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about December 30, 2022, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a lease agreement, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA applications #87619, #87620, #87621, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 13**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about July 12, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #117971, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 14**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about July 12, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA application #117975, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 15**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA applications #133886, #133887, #133888, #133889, #133890, and/or #133891, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 16**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #133886, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 17**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #133887, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 18**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #133888, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 19**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #133889, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 20**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #133890, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 21**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #133891, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 22**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA applications #136491, #136493, #136495, #136534, #136535, and/or #136536 for the “Gil Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 23**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA applications #136491, #136493, #136495, #136534, #136535, and/or #136536 for the “Gil Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 24**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND/OR ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 21, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #137980, #137981, and/or #137983 for the “Cole Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 25**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #138456, #138458, and/or #138459 for the “Cole Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 26**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #140338, 140339, 140341, 140342, 140343, and/or 140344 for the “Diaz Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 27**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with the ESA application #140338, 140339, 140341, 140342, 140343, and/or 140344 for the “Diaz Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 28**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or between March 6, 2024 and March 8, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #140977, 1470978, 140979, 140980, #141123, and #141125 for the “Dobbs Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 29**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or between March 6, 2024 and March 8, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona submitting a birth certificate, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #140977, 1470978, 140979, 140980, #141123, and #141125 for the “Dobbs Family,” in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 30**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about April 28, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona a utility bill, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, with ESA applications #143784, #143785, and/or #143786, for the "Hewitt Family," in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 31**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #133886, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Erin Fox, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 32**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #133887, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Poppy Fox, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 33**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #133888, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Penny Fox, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 34**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #133889, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Joyce Fox, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 35**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #133890, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Elizabeth Fox, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.



**COUNT 36**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about November 14, 2023, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #133891, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Grace Fox, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 37**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #136491, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Tucker Gil, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 38**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #136493, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Vance Gil, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 39**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #136495, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Wyatt Gill, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 40**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #136534, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Arlo Gil, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 41**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #136535, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Rocky Gil, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 42**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 3, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #136536, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Mikey Gil, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 43**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 21, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #137980, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Micah Cole, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 44**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 21, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #137981, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Sonny Cole, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 45**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 21, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #137983, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Wilson Cole, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 46**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #138456, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Ryder Cole, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 47**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #138458, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Maverick Cole, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 48**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about January 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #138459, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Jack Cole, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 49**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140338, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Antonia Diaz, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 50**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140339, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Juan Diaz, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 51**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140341, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Raul Diaz, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 52**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140342, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Crispian Diaz, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 53**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140343, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Jorge Diaz, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 54**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about February 26, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140344, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Arturo Diaz, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 55**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about March 6, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140977, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Briana Dobbs, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 56**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about March 6, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140978, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Louis Dobbs, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 57**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about March 6, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140979, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Tate Dobbs, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 58**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about March 6, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #140980, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Matthew Dobbs, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

**COUNT 59**

**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about March 8, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #141123, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Jon Dobbs, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.



**COUNT 60**

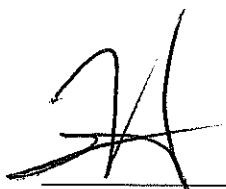
**FORGERY, A CLASS 4 FELONY**

**JOHNNY LEE BOWERS (001) AND ASHLEY MEREDITH HEWITT (002)**, on or about March 8, 2024, with intent to defraud, did offer or present to the State of Arizona ESA application #141125, a forged instrument or one which contained false information, for Tucker Dobbs, a child who did not exist, in violation of A.R.S. §§ 13-2001, 13-2002(A)(3), 13-301, 13-302, 13-303, 13-304, 13-701, 13-702, 13-801, 15-2401, 15-2401.01, 15-2402, 15-2403, 15-2404, 15-2405, and 15-2406.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 21-425, the Grand Jurors find that the offenses described above were committed in Maricopa County, Arizona.

A "True Bill"  
(A "True Bill")

KRISTIN K. MAYES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ARIZONA



HALEIGH FARRELLY  
Assistant Attorney General



CAROLINA M. LOPEZ  
Assistant Attorney General

Dated: 11/12/2024



Foreperson of the Grand Jury



Foreperson of the Grand Jury