



# Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

## David Leyton, Prosecutor



## Fenton woman to be tried in embezzlement

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By Paul Janczewski

A Fenton woman involved with a historical building in the area has been ordered to stand trial for stealing money from an elderly man she cared for.

Penny L. Crane, 51, faces a Sept. 24 circuit court arraignment on a charge of embezzlement of a vulnerable adult, a 10-year felony.

The ruling came Wednesday from Central District Judge David J. Goggins after a preliminary examination.

Earlier, Horace C. Churchill, 83, of Fenton, said he loaned Crane more than \$64,000 in 1999. He said she was supposed to pay him back as she worked as his caregiver.

Genesee County Sheriff's Lt. Michael Tocarchick said the case was forwarded to him through the department's Consumer Protection Division.

He said during a interview with Crane, she told him Churchill fired her as she was paying back loans from him to pay off her mortgage and a car loan.

Tocarchick said he located bank documents that showed more than \$63,000 was paid to the holder of Crane's mortgage.

Tocarchick testified Crane told him that she had Churchill committed to a mental hospital, but days after his release, he signed a document saying she owed him nothing.

Churchill said Crane still owed him cash, and he did not remember signing any document.

Assistant Genesee County Prosecutor Karen Hanson told Goggins that Crane took advantage of a man suffering from dementia.

Attorney Dennis H. Snyder, who represents Crane, said prosecutors failed to show fraud.

Goggins said a jury must sort out the answers.

Crane was owner of the historic 140-year-old Fenton Seminary, and is in the process of selling architectural artifacts from the building.

Earlier she told The Flint Journal she committed no crime and blamed Churchill for falsely accusing her and others in the past of stealing his cash.

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