

North Texas sisters bilked \$90,000 from elderly man they met at casino, police say

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Two sisters are accused of bilking more than \$90,000 from an elderly Wichita Falls man with a "diminished mental capacity," police said.



Mary Ann Warren (Wichita County Sheriff's Department)

Mary Ann Warren, 61, and her sister Sandy Lujan, 52, were arrested last week on charges of exploitation of an elderly individual, a third-degree felony, according to the Wichita County Sheriff's Department.

Lujan was booked into the Wichita County Jail on Wednesday afternoon. Her bail has been set at \$250,000. She also had other traffic violations.

Warren was booked into the county jail last Tuesday and remained behind bars a week later in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

According to the *Times Record News*, police say that between March and August 2018, the sisters stole \$90,761 from the unnamed 85-year-old's bank account after meeting him at a casino.

In an arrest warrant affidavit acquired by the *Times Record News*, a police detective stated his belief that the man was "groomed, deceived, manipulated and exploited through a sympathetic type theft scheme preying on [his] current diminished mental capacity to access his finances."

An order was requested to prevent Warren from contacting the man "to prevent further harm," but the detective "believes that the rate and manner of exploitation will cause the financial failure of [the elder man's] retirement income needed for his future care."



Sandy Lujan (Wichita County Sheriff's Department)

According to Warren's arrest warrant affidavit, a man filed a report with Adult Protective Services on Aug. 9 reporting the financial exploitation of his father.

The man believed that his father was being exploited for his lack of judgement.

The father's account records showed that between March and August 2018, 31 checks worth a total of \$32,882 had been made out to Warren.

The man said he was helping Warren with medical expenses. When detectives asked about cash withdrawals from his bank account totaling \$57,879.74, he said that the money was given to Warren and Lujan.

Detectives interviewed Warren, who is unemployed, at her home on Aug. 21. Warren said she was using the money given to her by the elderly man for medical expenses, but did not have any medications, receipts or billing statements that verified her claim of needed assistance. Warren refused to allow police to review her medical history.

Detectives met with the victim, who was confused by the details of the case and unable to remember exactly how much money he had given to Warren and Lujan.

The detective and an Adult Protective Services investigator believe the elderly man suffers from short-term memory loss, confusion and diminished judgment.

The elderly man was also examined by a doctor, whose report stated that he showed signs of diminished mental capacity and cognitive ability.