



NEWS RELEASE

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CASE UPDATE #3: Flagler Tax Service Fugitive Dies Before Extradition to Flagler County

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff’s Office was advised that Robert “Bob” Newsholme died on November 8, 2024, while under hospice care in Las Vegas. Newsholme had been arrested by Las Vegas Metropolitan Police as a fugitive from Flagler County. He had been held at the Clark County Detention Center, and on the day that FCSO’s inmate transport service arrived in Las Vegas to pick him up for extradition to Florida he became ill and was taken to a Las Vegas-area hospital. Medical staff determined his illness was at end-of-life and transferred him to a Las Vegas-area hospice care facility.

On November 18, FCSO detectives were notified that Newsholme had passed on November 8, and his body was cremated by a funeral home. Newsholme claimed no next-of-kin while in custody, at the hospital, or when admitted to hospice care. Detectives, upon learning of his passing, notified his family.

“This is a tragic end to an extensive investigation and fraud that he perpetrated on our victims,” said Sheriff Rick Staly. “While we won’t be able hold him accountable for his actions on earth, he now must answer for his fraudulent activities and thefts to God, which is probably a more severe penalty than a court could have imposed. We extend our sympathy to his family and to his victims that had been anxiously waiting for their day in court. I want to thank the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Clark County Detention Center for their assistance in this case.”

Original Release Date: August 8, 2024 (Update No. 2)
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CASE UPDATE #2: After Extensive Investigation Arrest Made in Flagler Tax Service Case – Fugitive Caught in Las Vegas

BUNNELL, Fla. — On August 7, 2024, Robert “Bob” Newsholme, who had been the subject of local and federal investigations into allegations of fraud and embezzlement since 2021, was arrested in Las Vegas. Newsholme, 68, was arrested after Flagler County Sheriff’s Office detectives determined he had conducted an organized scheme to defraud clients of his tax business.

In August 2021, FCSO fraud investigators opened an investigation into Newsholme and his business, Flagler Tax Service, after receiving numerous complaints that Newsholme had defrauded clients. Working with the Internal Revenue Service and the Volusia Sheriff’s Office, detectives in FCSO’s General Assignment Unit discovered that Newsholme took money from clients to pay their personal or business income taxes and never gave that money to the IRS. They also found that Newsholme was not a certified public accountant as most of his clients believed he was.

After opening over 100 cases from Newsholme’s victims, detectives turned the investigation over to the IRS Criminal Investigation in October 2021. However, in August 2023, Sheriff Rick Staly spoke with the IRS, who told him that because of a federal technicality they would not be pursuing the case. Sheriff Staly then directed that FCSO fraud investigators reopen the case locally. After a yearlong investigation that included examining all previous complaints and reviewing banking, credit card, and federal tax records, detectives were able to determine Newsholme had defrauded victims of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

During the investigation, detectives learned that Newsholme had moved to Las Vegas. With assistance from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, detectives attempted to interview Newsholme but he refused to answer the door. Investigators were then able to obtain an arrest warrant for Newsholme in July 2024.

The LMVPD, in collaboration with the United States Marshals Service Nevada Violent Offender Task Force, was requested to assist in locating Newsholme, who had moved after detectives tried to interview him. An in-depth investigation determined that Newsholme was residing in a non-profit independent living facility for seniors, where he was attempting to avoid detection.

On August 7, Newsholme was located and arrested on nine counts of Grand Theft and one count of Organized Scheme to Defraud. He was subsequently booked into the Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas as a fugitive from justice and is being held on no bond. Newsholme will later be extradited back to Flagler County.

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Robert Newsholme (Clark County Detention Center mugshot)

“This was an extensive and thorough investigation that kept our detectives busy with thousands of documents, many subpoenas, and dozens of interviews starting in 2021 and then again over the past year after we took the investigation back from the IRS,” said Sheriff Staly. “Although we were disappointed to learn that federal authorities would not be pursuing charges, we knew when we took back over the investigation that our General Assignment Unit had a solid case that would result in an arrest.”

“The arm of the law is long, and this thief learned that hiding out and trying to be a hermit in Las Vegas was not far enough to get away,” Sheriff Staly added. “I thank the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the U.S. Marshals for helping us find and apprehend him so that he can face justice for stealing the hard-earned money of Flagler County residents that trusted him with their taxes.”

Original Release Date: October 21, 2021 (Update No. 1)

Original Release #: 2021 – 246 (Update No. 1)

CASE UPDATE: Flagler Tax Service Case Turned Over to Feds

Sheriff Urges Possible Victims to File a Report with Federal Authorities

BUNNELL, Fla. — Since August 2021, the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) has opened over 100 cases from victims of an alleged schemed to defraud clients of Flagler Tax Services. The FCSO General Assignment Detectives have conducted approximately 85 interviews with victims and federal authorities are now taking over this investigation.

“Detectives of our General Assignment Unit have been busy investigating over 100 cases,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “They’ve analyzed thousands of documents and conducted upwards of 85 interviews with potential victims. Our federal partners have decided to adopt this investigation. The federal court system is more likely to hold this offender accountable for stealing from clients and in the federal

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system you serve 100% of your sentence. If you have not filed a complaint and believe you may be a victim please file a report with the IRS.”

FCSO urges residents who may be a victim or know someone that may be a victim and you have not already filed a report with FCSCO to contact the IRS Criminal Investigation Tampa Field Office at TampaFieldOffice@ci.irs.gov or call 904-661-3413. If you have already filed a report with FCSCO you do not need to call IRS Criminal Investigations.

Original Release Date: September 7, 2021

Original Release #: 2021 – 194

FCSO Investigates Over a Dozen Cases of Fraud and Theft of Flagler Tax Service Clients

BUNNELL, Fla. — On Friday, September 3, 2021, the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office (FCSCO) General Assignment Unit, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Criminal Investigations, and the Volusia County Sheriff’s Office (VCSO) executed a search warrant on Flagler Tax Service of Bunnell, located at 608 E Moody Boulevard.

Detectives seized multiple computers, files, and other evidence potentially linked to numerous incidents of a massive organized scheme to defraud clients.



The investigation into the business began on August 25, 2021, when numerous individuals contacted FCSCO to report that they had been defrauded by Robert “Bob” Newsholme (DOB: 8/17/1955) of Flagler Tax Service.

The allegations against Newsholme currently include Grand Theft, Organized Scheme to Defraud, and Embezzlement. He has a criminal history dating back to the late 1970s in New York for Grand Larceny,

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Petit Larceny, Issuing Bad Checks with Knowledge, Forgery, and Scheme to Defraud, with the most recent charge for Defraud in 2004. He is not a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) as most of his clients believed he was and the current cases being investigated by the FCSO total \$189,871 of missing funds.

“At this time, we have no indication that any other Flagler Tax Service employees took part in or had knowledge of any illegal activity,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “Thousands of documents and forensic material are being analyzed as the investigation continues. It’s unfortunate that someone who was trusted in the community would take advantage of so many people that trusted him. Our investigators will not rest until the victims are identified and the suspect is held accountable for his actions.”

FCSO is asking the community – any person or business whose taxes have been prepared by Flagler Tax Service and has received a notice from the IRS of late filings – or anyone who believes they may be a victim to please contact the FCSO to make a formal report at 386-313-4911.

There are currently 12 active cases being investigated for fraud against Newsholme that FCSO is investigating. If you feel you may be a victim, please contact the FCSO by calling 386-313-4911 to file a report. Upon filing a report with FCSO, victims need to contact the IRS with their case number at 800-829-1040 (Individuals) or 800-829-4933 (Businesses). We also urge residents who may not be known victims of fraud but may have had their tax information seized during the investigation of Flagler Tax Services to contact the IRS.

Newsholme shot himself in the stomach on August 24, 2021, which may have been a possible attempted suicide and was investigated by the FCSO.

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