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Apartment Complex Employee Charged With Identity Theft

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ORANGE COUNTY, Fla. -- At least 700 people in the UCF area may have fallen victim to an identity thief. Federal investigators say a former apartment complex mail clerk rang up at least \$280,000 in fraudulent charges and had quite a credit card collection.



Yolanda Flournah (*photo left*) was supposed to just be sorting the mail. But investigators say she was snagging all kinds of personal items. And maybe worst of all, she found another job where she still has access to all kinds of personal information.

The postal inspector says the former UCF criminal justice student started a crime wave while working at an apartment complex that used to be called Knight's Crossing. Students there started to complain their mail was missing.

"It ran the gamut, from A to Z, where we had parcels missing from home as well as financial information," explains postal inspector Ed Moffitt.

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Investigators think hundreds of times Flournah snagged credit card applications while sorting the mail. Then she'd fill them out before anyone knew they were missing.

"When the credit card itself would come in, she'd intercept it," says Moffitt.

Agents say they found 400 credit cards when they searched her apartment. They think she rang up nearly \$300,000 in illegal charges.

The U.S. attorney says Flournah also had student's financial aide documents. That's an especially troubling detail when you consider her latest job: a financial aide counselor at FMU.

The judge instructed court staffers to inform the university of Flournah's charges. Right now, investigators think the 23-year-old victimized 700 people, but they worry that might not be it.

Flournah entered a plea of not guilty today and her attorney told Channel 9 they'd mount a vigorous defense.

The charges here are more severe because she was a mail clerk at the complex. She's being charged as if she were a postal service employee.

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