



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Attorney General Bruning Files Charges Against Former National Guard Employee

Note: Sound bites on this topic are available at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced his office filed charges against former National Guard employee Antrina Berks, 45, of Lincoln. Berks faces seven counts of second degree forgery (three of them felonies), one count of felony theft by unlawful taking, and one count of felony theft by deception.

A Nebraska State Patrol investigation found that Berks, as a civilian employee with the Nebraska National Guard, made \$39,092 in unauthorized refund requests on the Nebraska National Guard's postage meter accounts between August 2005 and May 2006. These refund checks were illegally endorsed by Berks and deposited into an unauthorized joint account in the name of Berks and the Nebraska National Guard.

The investigation also revealed other checks illegally signed by Berks between March and May of 2006, totaling around \$700. Berks deposited these checks into the same joint account. She then wrote checks on the joint account for her personal expenses.

"Ms. Berks stole from a state agency committed to protecting people in our state, our nation and beyond," said Bruning. "What she did was wrong. I intend to hold her accountable."

Berks is also charged with illegally obtaining \$12,756 in housing assistance from the Lincoln Housing Authority from May 2005 to April 2007. Berks didn't report her civilian employee income to the Lincoln Housing Authority. Her combined income as a civilian employee and a guardsman of the Nebraska National Guard would have made her ineligible for assistance.

A preliminary hearing has been set for March 4 at 10 a.m. in Lancaster County Court.

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*****Please see chart below for charges and penalties.**

Charge	Class	Penalty
Second degree forgery less than \$300	class I misdemeanor	Maximum 1 year in prison, \$1,000 fine or both
Second degree forgery more than \$300 but less than \$1,000	class IV felony	Maximum 5 years in prison, \$10,000 fine or both
Second degree forgery over \$1,000	class III felony	Maximum 20 years in prison, \$25,000 fine or both Minimum 1 year in prison
Theft by unlawful taking	class III felony	Same as above
Theft by deception	class III felony	Same as above