

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **ODJFS Director issues statement on unemployment fraud indictment**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder today released a statement following the indictment of Donesha Shepard, a former ODJFS intermittent employee, and three co-defendants on charges of theft, tampering with records, telecommunications fraud, and bribery. All are felonies of the third degree. The indictment is available through the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts.

We are pleased with news of the indictment of four individuals in conjunction with fraud in the pandemic unemployment assistance program. This is not a victimless crime. These individuals allegedly stole from taxpayers. Fraud schemes also harmed legitimate unemployment claimants who were hurting during the pandemic by making it harder to receive needed benefits in a timely fashion. When we discovered that individuals like these may have been illegally abusing their access to our systems, we took immediate action to stop it and work with law enforcement to investigate and prosecute it. We thank all those agencies who helped bring this about and will continue working to ensure more criminals are brought to justice.

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*The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.*

