

Media Contact: Charlie Moore
Charlie.Moore@state.nm.us
(505) 670-5406

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Alamogordo man charged with embezzlement, tax fraud

A 66-year-old Alamogordo resident has been charged with embezzlement and tax fraud for the alleged misuse of money belonging to the Robert W. Hamilton Foundation.

Marion Ledford is facing one count of embezzlement, one count of tax fraud over \$20,000, both second degree felonies, and two counts of tax fraud over \$2,500 but less than \$20,000, both third-degree felonies.

“Taxation and Revenue Department agents stand ready to bring anyone who commits white collar crime in New Mexico to justice,” said New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke.

Ledford previously pleaded guilty to federal tax evasion charges in a related case. According to a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Albuquerque, Ledford was a director for the Robert W. Hamilton Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides scholarships to high school graduates in Otero County. According to the U.S. Attorney, Ledford wrote \$1,785,300 in checks to himself from the foundation’s accounts and failed to report the additional income on returns from 2011 to 2016.

Ledford agreed to pay more than \$2.4 million in restitution to the foundation and the Internal Revenue Service in that case.

According to a criminal information in the current state case, Ledford is accused of embezzling more than \$20,000 from the foundation between 2010 and 2017 and then failing to report the income on tax returns in 2017.

The case was investigated by the New Mexico State Police and the Taxation and Revenue Department Tax Fraud Investigations Division. It is being prosecuted by the 12th Judicial District Attorney’s Office in Alamogordo.