



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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PASTOR INDICTED IN MORTGAGE SCAM

A Denver Grand Jury has returned a 16-count indictment accusing a local church pastor of stealing tens of thousands of dollars through a mortgage fraud scheme.

Harold Joe Hicks (dob: 10-09-44) is charged by indictment with 8 counts of *theft* (F3 and F4) and 8 counts of *forgery* (F5).

The indictment alleges that Hicks, using surrogate buyers, facilitated the submission of mortgage loan applications with false information to secure loans at a lower interest rate. The indictment alleges that lenders lost at least \$80,000 on loans for 8 properties that were based on applications with false information.

The indictment was returned yesterday and has been filed with the Court today. An arrest warrant has now been issued for Hicks.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See* Colo. RPC 3.6