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West Chester Man Indicted in Butler County for Securities Fraud and Theft from the Elderly

A Butler County grand jury on Tuesday returned an indictment against Ronald Lee Jennings, age 75, of West Chester, Ohio, for misrepresentation in the sale of a security, securities fraud, selling an unregistered security and two counts of theft from an elderly person. All five counts are felonies of the second degree.

If convicted on all counts, Jennings could face up to 40 years in prison. A summons was issued Tuesday for Jennings to appear for arraignment on Jan. 8, 2018.

The indictment stems from allegations that Jennings received \$91,000 from an elderly Ohio resident in exchange for a note of corporation issued by Jennings' business, Mature Planning Personal Services, Inc., formerly known as Mature Planning Financial Services, Inc. The indictment alleges that Jennings solicited the investor using false representations and material omissions about the nature of the businesses and the nature of the transaction. The indictment further alleges that the note was not properly registered for sale in or from Ohio.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office of the Butler County Prosecutor, Michael T. Gmoser.

Before investing, the Division of Securities encourages potential investors to call the Division's Investor Protection Hotline at 877-683-7841 to ask:

- Has the security been properly registered with the Division of Securities?
- Is the brokerage firm and salesperson licensed to sell securities in Ohio?
- Have any enforcement actions been taken against them?

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