



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Former Hamilton County Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Theft from the Elderly**

*Crimes included theft of \$20,000 from an Ohio investor*

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Jerry Fuqua, 76, pleaded guilty to one count of theft from the elderly and one count of securing writings by deception, both third-degree felonies, during a hearing today in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 7. Fuqua faces up to 72 months in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

Following a criminal referral by the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Securities, Fuqua was indicted July 30 by a Hamilton County grand jury. The indictment alleged he solicited \$20,000 from an elderly Ohio investor for fictitious stock certificates issued by Fuqua Corporation, which was shut down by the Ohio Department of Taxation in 2009 for failure to pay corporate franchise tax.

This case was prosecuted by the office of Hamilton County Prosecutor Joseph T. Deters.

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

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

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