

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, May 31, 2018

WICHITA, KAN. – A daycare owner and five others have admitted their role in a welfare fraud scheme that defrauded the State of Kansas out of more than \$50,000.

Erika Tomlin, 29 of Wichita, owner of two Kiddy Kollege daycare locations in Wichita, was sentenced Wednesday for one count of felony theft and ordered to repay the State of Kansas \$36,000 in childcare assistance.

Judge Stephen Ternes ordered Tomlin to pay at least \$7,200 annually to the State as part of her probation. Ternes said Tomlin could be kept on probation for up to five years in order to get all the restitution paid, although he would terminate her probation after one year if she paid all the money back. Under the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines, Tomlin could serve five months in prison if she does not follow the terms of her probation.

Tomlin pleaded guilty to felony theft on April 12, 2018. Tomlin admitted to defrauding the State of Kansas out of childcare assistance from the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

Five other women, all recipients of DCF childcare benefits, and Tomlin were accused of falsely claiming childcare benefits for children who were enrolled at Tomlin's daycare. An investigation of the daycare locations showed that the children did not attend the daycare even though the defendants were receiving money from the state. Bank records were introduced at an earlier hearing that showed Tomlin and the others split the proceeds from the state.

The other people charged in the case were Na'Shari Sanders, who was granted diversion and agreed to pay \$4,934.36 in restitution to DCF; Sierra Martin, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor theft and agreed to pay \$3,359.25; Raven Alexander, who was granted diversion and agreed to pay \$1,140.00; Shameca Davis, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor theft and agreed to pay \$4,052.33; and Danielle Sullivan, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor theft and agreed to pay \$2,858.10.

The total restitution ordered in the case was \$52,344.04. The investigation was conducted by the Kansas Department for Children and Families and the Investigations Division of the Office of the District Attorney.

| Defendant | Outcome | Restitution to DCF | Case # |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Erika Tomlin | Felony | \$36,000.00 | 2016CR306 |
| Na'Shari Sanders | Diversion | \$4,934.36 | 2016CR310 |
| Sierra Martin | Misdemeanor | \$3,359.25 | 2016CR309 |
| Raven Alexander | Diversion | \$1,140.00 | 2016CR307 |
| Shameca Davis | Misdemeanor | \$4,052.33 | 2016CR308 |
| Danielle Sullivan | Misdemeanor | \$2,858.10 | 2016CR311 |
| | TOTAL | \$52,344.04 | |

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