

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



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For Immediate Release, September 11, 2015

**WICHITA, KAN.** – A Wichita contractor and small business operator was sentenced today on seven felony counts of theft related to fraudulent business transactions in Sedgwick County.

Charles R. Thorpe II, 47 of Wichita, was sentenced to an underlying prison term of 34 months and placed on a 5-year probation term to allow him time to pay back \$66,897.05 in restitution to his seven victims. District Court Judge Steve Ternes ordered Thorpe to make minimum payments of \$250 a month during the period of probation. Thorpe, who spoke at his sentencing, told the judge that he intended to pay all of the restitution back.

Four of the convictions resulted from construction jobs that Thorpe failed to complete after being paid by the homeowners. Those projects included residential roofing and remodeling.

Three of the convictions resulted from loan fraud related to Thorpe's other business. Thorpe was part owner of a Wichita dry cleaning business called See Spot Go. According to statements in court, Thorpe used property he did not own as collateral on a loan for his business that was never paid back.

Thorpe pleaded guilty to the seven felony counts on August 7, 2015. Statements in court revealed that Thorpe also has two convictions for home repair fraud in Gulfport, Mississippi.

The case was investigated by Wichita Police, the Sedgwick County Sheriff and an investigator from the DA's Consumer Protection Division.

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