



## Burton man arrested for embezzling \$470K from grandfather

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**Laura Misjak | The Flint Journal**



Michael Miller

**BURTON, Michigan** -- A 42-year-old Burton man is being held in the Genesee County Jail and will be arraigned later today on a charge of embezzling \$100,000 or more - a 20-year felony.

Police arrested Michael Miller this morning and believe he took \$470,000 from his grandfather's savings account and used it to flip houses in Kokomo, Ind. and buy about a dozen vehicles, including a Jaguar, said Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell.

An arrest warrant for Miller was authorized Wednesday, Pickell said.

The victim, 90-year-old Spencer Shumway, died Aug. 21 at an Alzheimer's care facility in Fenton.

Pickell said Shumway was first diagnosed with moderate Alzheimer's Disease in February 2007. At that time his son gained power of attorney, but died later that month.

Shumway's wife, Dora, then gained power of attorney but died a few days after the son died, Pickell said.

That's when Miller moved to Burton from Arkansas to take over power of attorney for his grandfather.

He moved into the Burton house with his wife and two kids and shortly after moved Shumway into a McLaren Regional

Medical Center Alzheimer's facility.

When Miller first moved into Shumway's house in March 2007, Shumway had \$470,000 in cash savings, Pickell said.

A year after Miller moved to Burton and his name was added to the savings account, the account had been drained of all but \$2.30, Pickell said.

Because of the strained finances, Shumway was moved from the McLaren facility to one in Fenton, where he died in August.

Police were tipped off by employees at the Alzheimer's facilities about the grandson's spending habits.

"It's **another case of a family member** taking over power of attorney and no one checking on it," Pickell said. "Don't take anything for granted. Make sure people are taking care of your loved ones."

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