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Alleged Scam Artist Behind Bars For Elaborate Bail Bonds Scam

An alleged scam artist is now in jail after investigators say he stole thousands of dollars in an elaborate bail bonds scam.

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Reporter: KKTU

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The following news release was sent out by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office:

A 24-year-old California man is in custody following a two month multi-state bail bond scam investigation.

On March 26, 2011, a bond agent from Bobby Brown's Bond Agency released personal information to a suspect on a co-signer of a bond that was posted through his agency. The suspect then contacted the co-signer and demanded an additional \$1,400.00 for associated court costs on a previous warrant and new charges that were being filed. The suspect said if the co-signer didn't post the additional bond funds he would have the person she bonded picked up and returned to jail. The co-signer paid the \$1,400.00 and when she appeared in court on March 28, 2011, she learned she had been the victim of the scam.

The co-signer reported the scam to the Colorado Springs Police Department. During their investigation, CSPD detectives were told by Bobby Brown the suspect had to have access to a computer at the El Paso County jail to obtain the personal information on the co-signer. CSPD detectives contacted the Sheriff's Office with this information and agreed to turn the case over to the Sheriff's Office.

Bobby Brown publicized this event and specifically, that the information was released by a member of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, through KRDO News 13. However, the investigation revealed the co-signer information was actually released by an employee of Bobby Brown Bail Bonds.

Sheriff's Office detectives began tracking the suspects phone usage, but the investigation was hindered by Bobby Brown and Tak Landrock, with KRDO News 13 attempting to conduct their own investigation. After several calls to the suspect from Tak Landrock, the suspect discarded the primary link for solving the crime. Despite this obstacle, detectives were able to verify the suspect was operating out of Sacramento, California. They also found four additional victims.

Detectives contacted the Placer County, California Sheriff's Office for assistance. With information obtained during the joint investigation, the suspect was identified as 24 year old Michael Stephen Moynihan of Sacramento. Placer County detectives attempted to arrest Moynihan twice, but he escaped both times. After both arrest attempts, Placer County detectives recovered evidence connecting the suspect to over 600 bond scam incidents nationwide. Detectives began calling phone numbers across the country, and now believe there may be over 1,000 victims nationally.

On May 26, 2011, Placer County Detectives, with the assistance of the Sacramento Police Department Parolee Interdiction Team and Canine Unit, arrested Moynihan after a short foot pursuit in Sacramento. Moynihan was booked into the Sacramento County Jail on a

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