

Carer admits to stealing £14,000 over a period of five years

Benefit cheat told to expect jail sentence

A CARER from Northampton who has admitted stealing more than £14,000 in housing and council tax benefit has been told she is facing jail.

Nancy Green, aged 46, of Dane-field Road, Abington, dishonestly declared on benefit application forms that she had no partner residing at her home address when, in actual fact, Owen Timberlake, the father of her daughter, was living at the property.

Northampton Magistrates' Court heard the fraud was carried out over a period of five years from March 31, 2003 until August 3, 2008.

Mohammed Rahman, prosecuting for Northampton Borough

By Callum Jones
Chronicle Reporter

callum.jones@northantsnews.co.uk

Council, said Green's crime had been revealed after background checks on Timberlake showed he was registered on the electoral roll at her house and he had also given her address as his place of residence to the DVLA and a number of banks.

Mr Rahman said Green, who

works at Oakwood Nursing Home, off Kettering Road, had falsely claimed a total of £12,469.99 housing benefit and £1,834.55 council tax benefit.

He said Green had "deliberately misled" the council after first denying that Timberlake had lived with her and then failing to attend four appointments arranged by officers investigating her case.

Ron Mineards, defending, said the case was not a "sophisticated"

fraud but had come about as the result of Timberlake's unpredictable lifestyle.

He said: "Mr Timberlake would turn up when he wanted to and she would have no idea how long he would be staying there."

The magistrates' asked for reports to be carried out ahead of sentencing but indicated that, due to the seriousness of the offence, six weeks custody would be the expected punishment.

Chairman of the bench, Dr Rosemary Sage, said: "The aggravating factor of this case was the long period of time it was committed and the substantial amount of money involved. £14,000 is a lot of public money."

The case was adjourned until sentencing later this month.

“The aggravating factor of this case was the long period of time it was committed and the substantial amount of money involved.

— Chairman of the bench, Dr Rosemary Sage