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Police: Two took nearly \$60,000 from senior

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Slocumb police and agents with the Alabama Bureau of Investigation have charged two women with stealing nearly \$60,000 from an 89-year-old man.

Police Chief Don White said he and an ABI agent arrested both 44-year-old Dana Blanco of Hartford

and 35-year-old Kimberly Jimenez of Slocumb as they served grand jury indictments recently returned against the two women. White said both women are charged with first-degree theft of property and exploitation of assets.

"They had befriended him and were trying to oversee him and take care of him. They took advantage

of his mental capacity. It was their intent to take the money," White said. "In my opinion, he is in need of a proper caregiver and someone to manage his finances and day-to-day needs. In my opinion, they were doing it for their own self-interest and personal gain."

White said police were notified about six weeks ago after the man, accompanied



Kimberly Jimenez

by the two women, withdrew nearly \$60,000 in cash from a bank in Slocumb.

White said police later recovered about \$50,000 in cash from a vehicle that belonged to one of the women.

White said Blanco worked as a self-employed health care giver, and she'd apparently been taking care of the man.

White said the indictments were the result of a six-week joint investigation

by the Slocumb Police Department, the ABI and the Geneva County District Attorney's Office. He said Jimenez is held at the Geneva County Jail without a bond. Blanco is held on a \$50,000 bond.

"It's always sad that people take advantage of the elderly that have worked

See SENIOR, 3A

Senior continued from 1A

hard for their money all their life," White said. "We're going to protect the innocent and the elderly."

Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams said

in an e-mailed statement that Jimenez faces a probation violation because she was on probation for a felony drug conviction at the time of her arrest. Adams encouraged people to thoroughly check into the legitimacy of home health care providers.

"There are plenty of good agencies, but it is becoming an avenue for evil people to have access to our senior's assets," Adams said. "I believe protecting our seniors is a priority. Many of them have no family nearby, and can be taken advantage of by others."