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**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Re: State of Ohio vs. Patricia Steward, Case #16-CR-0019

Today a Seneca County jury convicted Patricia Steward of the offenses of Theft from an Elderly Person, Attempted Theft from an Elderly Person, and Telecommunications Fraud. Each of the offenses being a third degree felony. Ms. Steward had been arrested as the result of a January 2016 investigation into a fraud scheme initiated against an elderly Fostoria resident. Ms. Steward had been aided in the scheme by Tanor Tody and Sampson Cojolo who were also arrested and subsequently convicted for their roles in the scheme.

The investigation was undertaken by Fostoria Officer Cory Brian. Seneca County Prosecuting Attorney Derek W. DeVine said, "Officer Brian did an excellent job handling this investigation. His quick thinking and actions not only aided the elderly victim, it also insures that other potential victims of fraud will be protected for a period of time from these individuals. Congratulations to the Fostoria Police Department for a job well done."

Prosecutor DeVine also complimented Assistant Prosecutor Stephanie Reed. "She took charge of this case from the beginning and worked extremely hard to insure that each of the suspects was convicted for their role in the scheme to defraud an elderly person."

Ms. Steward's bond was revoked by Judge Michael P. Kelbley who presided over the two (2) day trial. Sentencing will be scheduled after the completion of a pre-sentence report. Ms. Steward was represented by Tiffin attorney Dean Henry.