Former County Sheriff Cory Hutcheson, 35, of East Prairie, Missouri found guilty this week of wire fraud and to illegally possessing and transferring the means of identification of others will be sentenced in February, according to officials.

As part of the plea, Hutcheson who served in Mississippi County in Missouri, agreed to resign as Sheriff not later than November 24, 2018.
“Sheriff Hutcheson simply misused an important law enforcement tool for his own purposes and, as a result, invaded the privacy of hundreds without the appropriate legal process,” said U.S. Attorney Jeff Jensen.

Hutcheson devised a scheme to get the location of hundreds of people through Securus LBS requests, according to authorities. He didn’t have any consent or legal authority to do so.

In his plea, Hutcheson admitted from April of 2014 through March 2017, he got the location data of mobile telephone users, including law enforcement officers, personal associates and friends, as well as a judge, without authorization. He would routinely upload false and fraudulent documents to the Securus LBS platform.

Hutcheson is facing up to 25 years in prison if convicted of the charges.

Hutcheson, 35, was a longtime deputy in Mississippi County, about 150 miles south of St. Louis. He was elected sheriff in November 2016 and took office in January 2017, according to Witchita Eagle.

Hutcheson faces other criminal charges.

The state charges alleged that Hutcheon entered Joyce’s Beauty Shop in East Prairie on March 24, 2017, to pick up a paycheck for his sister-in-law, who had been accused of taking property belonging to the business. The shop owner was holding the check until the property was returned, according to the Witchita Eagle.
The Wichita Eagle reported that Hutcheson approached 77-year-old Bonnie Woods, an employee and a sister of the shop owner, and demanded the paycheck, threatening arrest if she refused, authorities said. When Woods refused, the sheriff allegedly grabbed her left wrist and applied the handcuff with enough force that it bled, grabbed the check, removed the handcuff and left.

Woods felt chest pains and was taken to a hospital where it was determined she had a heart attack, authorities said. She recovered.

Later that day, Hutcheson submitted an affidavit to the county prosecutor seeking assault and kidnapping charges against Woods. He alleged that the sister-in-law was held against her will when she tried to pick up her final paycheck, according to the Wichita Eagle.

Those charges against Hutcheson are pending, according to officials.

National Geographic: Meet the
Meet the woman who discovered a whole new type of galaxy

Turkish-born astrophysicist Burçin Mutlu-Pakdil shares her name with a rare double ring of stars more than 350 light-years away.

BY FEHMIDA ZAKEER

PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 21, 201

This story is part of Women of Impact, a National Geographic project focused on women breaking barriers in their fields, changing their communities, and inspiring action. Join the conversation in our Facebook group.

As a child growing up in Turkey, astrophysicist Burçin Mutlu-Pakdil used to enjoy looking up at the stars in the night sky. Little did she know
that thanks to her scientific skills, a galaxy sitting 359 light-years from Earth would one day bear her name.

Mutlu-Pakdil’s lifelong passion for astrophysics was born when she had to prepare an assignment in middle school on an interesting person.

“I asked my sister for suggestions on who I should choose for my assignment, and she suggested Einstein, because he’s the cleverest man in the world,” Mutlu-Pakdil says. She immediately dove into reading about physics and became obsessed with understanding the cosmos. But she encountered obstacles when she chose to do undergraduate studies in physics. For starters, she had to move from her home town of Istanbul to Ankara.

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Hawthorne Man Indicted for
Collecting Life Insurance After Killing His Two Children

LOS ANGELES

A federal grand jury this week named a Hawthorne man in a 14-count indictment alleging that he drove his family into the water at the Port of Los Angeles to collect on a life insurance policy he had purchased on their lives, according to authorities.

Ali F. Elmezayen, 44, was charged with four counts of mail fraud, four counts of wire fraud, one count of aggravated identity theft and five counts of money laundering.

Elmezayen remains in federal custody after being arrested on November 7 by the FBI. He is scheduled to be arraigned next week in federal court, according to officials.

The indictment alleges that Elmezayen purchased several life and accidental death insurance policies providing coverage on himself, his domestic partner and their three children in 2012 and 2013.

Elmezayen then drove a car with his partner and two youngest children off a wharf at the Port of Los Angeles on April 9, 2015.
Elmezayen swam out the open driver’s side window of the car. Elmezayen’s partner, who did not know how to swim, escaped the vehicle and survived when a nearby fisherman threw her a flotation device.

The two children, who were 8 and 13, drowned in the car.

Elmezayen then collected more than $260,000 in insurance proceeds from Mutual of Omaha Life Insurance and American General Life Insurance on the accidental death insurance policies he had taken out on the children’s lives, according to the indictment.

The defendant is presumed innocent unless found guilty.

If he were to be convicted of all the charges contained in the indictment, Elmezayen is facing up to 212 years in federal prison.
A federal judge sentenced Michael Wood, 54, and Mary Wood, 46, of Mullica Hill, New Jersey, to 20 months in federal prison for exploiting a servant, according to federal officials.

Also they were ordered to pay $46,320 in restitution to the victim in this case.

A jury convicted both defendants of harboring an alien for financial gain and conspiracy to harbor an alien on June 6, 2017.

According to evidence presented in court and other court documents, in August 2005, the defendants recruited a young Kenyan woman to care for their minor children in New Jersey and arranged for her to enter the United States illegally using a fraudulent British passport.

The defendants required the victim to perform domestic work and childcare at their home seven days a week, paying her a mere $200 a month.

To conceal the victim’s immigration status from authorities, the defendants prohibited her from leaving their house, except to walk the children to school, and instructed her not to talk to anyone outside of the house and defendants’ family.

In June 2006, members of defendant Mary Wood’s family moved the victim to their homes, where they continued to harbor her and exploit her domestic labor until the victim managed to leave in 2011.

“The defendants exploited the domestic labor of a young Kenyan woman, for minimal pay, circumventing immigration law,” said Assistant Attorney General Eric
Dreiband. “Today’s sentences demonstrate the Department of Justice’s commitment to seeking justice for vulnerable individuals across the country and holding defendants who commit these despicable and unconscionable crimes accountable.”

“The sentencing of Mr. and Mrs. Wood emphasizes the severity of crimes that oppress victims of unconscionable domestic labor practices,” said Special Agent in Charge Marlon V. Miller, HSI Philadelphia. “Homeland Security Investigations vigorously pursues those who take advantage of vulnerable victims of forced servitude for their own personal gain.”

Adding, “This case again underscores the importance of educating the public on these schemes, seeking justice for victims and holding violators accountable.”

Six additional defendants, including members of defendant Mary Wood’s family who harbored the victim from 2006 to 2011, previously pleaded guilty in Pennsylvania and were sentenced for their roles in the continuing alien harboring and labor exploitation scheme.

The defendants were also ordered to pay more than $233,000 in combined restitution to the victim.