



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

2015 Distinguished Law Enforcement Group Achievement Award

U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force

U.S. Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Columbus Division of Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Casino Control Commission, Westerville Division of Police, Whitehall Division of Police, Gahanna Division of Police, Delaware County Sheriff's Office, Ohio Auditor of State, Chillicothe Police Department

The U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force spent almost four years building a case against, and then dismantling, a multimillion-dollar fraud and money laundering scheme in central Ohio.

In 2011, the U.S. Secret Service Southern District of Ohio Electronic & Financial Crimes Task Force began investigating a Columbus family suspected of using their ATM business to launder proceeds from skimmed credit-card transactions. Skimming occurs when a suspect scans a card through a miniature card reader, which stores the number. Later, an "encoder" buys the stolen numbers and embeds them on gift cards, which can then be used to make fraudulent purchases. The family and other conspirators would buy credit-card numbers from various sources and cash them out at their ATMs and point-of-sale terminals at two stores they owned. They would use re-encoded cards to buy genuine gift cards, cigarettes and other products. They would then sell the items for cash.

On March 3, 2015, six search warrants were executed on the family's home as well as the homes of accomplices. Two members of the family and other accomplices were sent to U.S. District Court to answer to the charges. Bank accounts and almost 50 ATMs were seized for a total asset seizure of about \$750,000. The family's operation resulted in more than \$3 million in losses to credit-card companies and consumers.