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NEWS RELEASE

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County Employee Who Used Work Phone to Make Personal International Phone Calls Totaling \$20,000 Won't Face Criminal Prosecution

Milwaukee, WI – A Milwaukee County employee placed more than 160 international phone calls, racking up a phone bill of \$20,000 at taxpayer expense.

The county Information Management Services Department (IMSD) uncovered the international calls during the course of a software upgrade to the telephone system and reported it to the Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division. The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office investigated, determined who was making the calls, and referred the matter to the District Attorney's Office for criminal charges.

The District Attorney's office declined to file criminal charges.

“Wow! There is something horribly wrong from a prosecution standpoint, with the volumes of criminal statutes we have, that doesn't make this incident a crime,” said Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. “Theft of services comes to mind. She stole phone service. Simply firing her doesn't seem adequate to me. We'll never get the taxpayers money back.”

A new software program puts additional restrictions on international calls to prevent employees from placing non-county related international phone calls.

The subject was employed by the county for nine years and has been fired, pending a determination by the Personnel Review Board.

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