

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### CHICAGO WOMAN SOUGHT IN ALLEGED LOTTERY SCAM

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A Kane County judge has issued an arrest warrant for a Chicago woman accused of felony theft for duping someone out of \$5,000 in an alleged lottery ticket scheme.

Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon charged 49-year-old **Janet Cruz** with the offense of theft by deception, Class 2 felony.

Kane County prosecutors allege that on Aug. 8, 2019, Cruz instructed the victim to withdraw \$5,000 from the bank and to act as a "witness" for her so Cruz could claim a \$2 million lottery prize. Cruz promised the victim \$100,000 in return for her help.

According to Batavia police, the incident occurred the morning of Aug. 8. Cruz approached the victim claiming to have a winning lottery ticket that she could not collect because she lacked proper identification. A man who was nearby offered to help. Cruz then called a telephone number and spoke to someone who claimed to work for the lottery, said the ticket was worth \$2 million, that Cruz would need two witnesses to claim the prize if she did not have appropriate identification, and that the witnesses would need to provide \$20,000 each. Cruz offered the victim and the man \$100,000 each for their assistance. They drove to two Batavia banks, where the victim withdrew a total of \$5,000, which she gave to Cruz. Cruz then faked an illness and asked the victim to buy medication for her. While the victim was inside a store, Cruz and the man fled. The man is believed to be Cruz's accomplice.

Kane County Associate Judge Keith Johnson on Sept. 23 issued a warrant for Cruz's arrest and set her bail at \$40,000, with 10 percent (\$4,000) to apply for bond.

Cruz also is wanted on two Cook County warrants for similar offenses.

Anyone with information about Cruz should call Batavia police at (630) 454-2500. Cruz is 5-feet 5-inches tall, 135 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes.

The charges against Cruz are not proof of guilt. Cruz is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

**Janet Cruz:** Age 49 (d.o.b. 4-23-1970), of the 3200 block of West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Case No. 19CF1903.