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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Woman Stabs Self, Applies for Victim of Crime Funds

**COLUMBUS, OH**—In what prosecutors are calling one of the strangest scams they have seen, a Central Ohio resident is accused of fabricating an elaborate story of aggravated robbery and attempted murder, which included plunging a knife into her own torso, to try to bilk Ohio's crime victim assistance fund out of thousands of dollars, according to Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

Thirty-nine-year-old Nichole Childers, whose last known address was on the city's far east side, is wanted on charges of providing false information to mislead a public official and instigating a false alarm. Investigators also considered charging her with a felony count of tampering with evidence.

**“This case seemed bizarre from the get-go,” said Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.**”

Medical staff and security personnel sprang to action immediately when Childers first walked into the emergency room lobby of an east side hospital, claiming she had been robbed and stabbed.

Childers claimed she was supposed to meet “someone” to exchange a cell phone and was waiting in her car when two male teenagers approached her. She alleged that one of the suspects stole \$240 and a cell phone out of her purse while the other reached through her car window and stabbed her in the stomach.

She claimed that the suspects ran away but dropped the knife, which she retrieved from the ground and put in her car before driving herself to the hospital.

Based upon a lengthy police investigation that involved several interviews, cell phone records, DNA testing, fingerprinting, and other forensic analysis, authorities determined that Childers made up the robbery story and stabbed herself in the parking lot of the hospital with a knife she had stolen from a relative before walking into the emergency room.

Childers' application for approximately \$8000 from the Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victim Compensation program, which seeks to reimburse "qualifying victims of crime for out-of-pocket expenses lost as a direct result of [their] victimization," was ultimately denied.

**“Having prosecuted over 20,000 cases, I've seen plenty of scams before but nothing quite like this,” said First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. “Some may want to give Ms. Childers ‘style points’ for creativity but what she did was squander police and medical resources that should have been directed elsewhere.”**

Anyone with information on Nichole Childers is asked to contact First Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or [brhedrick@columbus.gov](mailto:brhedrick@columbus.gov). *Per state law, the Columbus City Attorney's office prosecutes misdemeanor crimes, not felonies.*

# WANTED



**NICHOLE**  
**CHILDERS**

**DOB:** 6/23/1977 (Age 39)

**Height:** 5'2"    **Weight:** 122  
**Hair:** Brown    **Eyes:** Brown

**Last Known Address:**  
2762 Denmark Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43232

**Case Number(s):**  
2015 CRB 029738

**Charge(s):**  
*2921.13(A3) – Falsification – Misleading a Public Official*  
*2917.32(A)(1) – Making False Alarms*