



Lawrence F. Alwin, CPA
State Auditor

October 10, 2001

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

The Public Integrity Unit (PIU) at the Travis County District Attorney's Office obtained an indictment for Cary Elliott on September 14, 2001, after the Special Investigations Unit investigated allegations of theft at the Texas School for the Deaf. The case is pending prosecution by the PIU. The Texas School for the Deaf requested the investigation after discovering several items of property missing from the campus. Cary Elliott was a former groundskeeper employed with the Texas School for the Deaf.

Cary Elliott faces one count of aggregated theft by a public servant. This count of theft includes a public servant enhancement provision because Cary Elliott was alleged to have appropriated the property while in the course of his employment with the Texas School for the Deaf. The maximum penalty for this offense is two to ten years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The indictment of Cary Elliott alleges that on or about January 13, 2000, he unlawfully appropriated numerous items of furniture belonging to the Texas School for the Deaf without its consent. These thefts occurred at the south campus of the Texas School for the Deaf and involved twenty-two separate furniture items with a total value of over \$1,800. Further investigation of this case resulted in the recovery of all twenty-two items.

If you have any questions contact either Ralph Disher, Investigator, or John Weber, Manager, Special Investigations Unit, at (512) 936-9500.

Sincerely,

Lawrence F. Alwin, CPA
State Auditor

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cc: Ms. Claire Bugen, Superintendent, Texas School for the Deaf
The Honorable Ronnie Earle, Travis County District Attorney

Special Investigations Unit Report
Regarding
Texas School for the Deaf

The **Texas School for the Deaf** is a state agency and a public school that provides educational services to persons who are 21 years of age or younger and who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The school also serves as a statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness, providing outreach and resource services to Texas deaf and hard of hearing students, parents, families, and professionals working to meet the needs of persons throughout the state who are deaf and hard of hearing.

The **Special Investigations Unit** investigates reports of illegal activity involving state agencies and universities.

Texas Government Code, Section 321.022, requires state agencies and universities to report suspected fraud or unlawful conduct to the State Auditor's Office if there are facts (not just suspicion) that point to fraud or unlawful conduct.

To report suspected illegal activity, call 1-800-TX-AUDIT (1-800-892-8348), send a fax to (512) 936-9400, visit www.sao.state.tx.us, or mail information to the State Auditor's Office, Attn: SIU, PO Box 12067, Austin, Texas 78711.

