

MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT



Public Information Office
400 N.W. 2 Ave., Room 220, Miami, Florida 33128
(305) 603-6420



FRAUD SCHEME SUBJECT ARRESTED

On July 25, 2025, the City of Miami Police Department received a report of fraud committed by an individual posing as an immigration attorney.

The victim sought legal assistance after her husband was detained by immigration authorities. A distant relative provided her with contact information for Maria de Lourdes Van-Caneghem, who claimed to be an attorney. The suspect was paid \$1,400.00 for her services in the form of money orders.

After several attempts for official proof of payment went unanswered, the victim conducted an online search, revealing Van-Caneghem's extensive history of fraud-related arrests.

Miami Police Financial Crimes Detail assumed the investigation and subsequently identified Van-Caneghem as the offender.

Van-Caneghem has an extensive criminal record involving financial crimes and is currently being held at Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center without bond.

The Miami Police Department encourages members of the public who believe they may have been affected by similar fraud schemes to notify law enforcement.

See the attached Arrest Affidavit.

Anyone with information or who has been victimized by the suspect is urged to contact the Miami Police Economic Crimes Unit at (305) 603-6280. Those with information that wish to remain anonymous can contact Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers at (305) 471- TIPS (8477), visit www.crimestoppersmiami.com and select "Give a Tip" or Send a text message to 274637. Enter CSMD followed by tip information and press send.

Prepared by: Ofc. M. Vega

Reviewed by: Sgt. S. Green

Case: 250725-0046244

Transmittal Date: January 23, 2026

Manuel A. Morales, Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE