



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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Job Applications Lead to Fraudulent Credit Accounts

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Ashley Johnson

Sheriff's detectives say a woman opened as many as 100 bogus credit accounts at area department stores using the names of restaurant job applicants.

Ashley Johnson, 24, of Memphis, was arrested by Sheriff's Deputies last Friday afternoon at Macy's department store at Wolfchase Mall after she attempted to open a credit card account in another woman's name. A Macy's loss prevention employee had met with Sheriff's detectives recently and recognized Johnson.

A search of Johnson's car turned up dozens of job applications for McAllister's restaurant which she used to open credit accounts at several stores. Johnson said she

found the applications several months ago in a dumpster behind the McAllister's in Millington.

Detectives say Johnson would open the accounts and immediately buy merchandise and then return it at another location for gift cards worth \$200 to \$2,000. She sold the cards on the street for half-price. Investigators say Johnson stole between \$30,000 and \$60,000 worth of merchandise since last December.

Anyone with information about the case should contact the Shelby County Sheriff's Office General Investigation Bureau at **(901) 545-5600**. Ashley Johnson has been charged with: **Theft of Property \$10,000 to \$60,000, Identify Theft-Trafficking and Forgery \$10,000 to \$60,000.**

(End of Release)