

Muller, Brittany ([Brittany Muller](#)), Leo Govoni remains a free man, despite failing to honor federal judge's orders, CBS 12 News (May 12, 2025), <https://www.wfla.com/news/leo-govoni-remains-a-free-man-despite-failing-to-honor-federal-judges-orders/>,

TAMPA, Fla. (WFLA) — A Pinellas County businessman accused of taking money from the disabled remains a free man.

A federal bankruptcy judge has repeatedly ordered Leo Govoni to produce key documents on his assets, but Govoni failed to do so again on Monday.

The judge found Govoni in contempt of court but stopped short of putting him behind bars.

Ten days ago, Judge Roberta Colton told Govoni he would face fines of \$5,000 a day plus attorney's fees until he produced those documents. Govoni failed to do so again Monday, so that meter is still running.

Why are these documents so important? Because attorneys for the people to whom Govoni owes money want to know where their money went.

Govoni was back in federal court Monday afternoon, and despite failing to honor the judge's order, he walked out again a free man.

Investigative Reporter Brittany Muller asked Govoni, "Where did the money go?" Govoni did not respond.

Colton ordered Govoni to produce financial records for himself and his businesses. She found him liable for over \$120 million taken from Govoni's now bankrupt St. Petersburg non-profit, the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration.

After a series of delays, the judge wrote: "it is now obvious that Govoni was stalling for time."

On April 25, Colton said Govoni provided one personal record within 15 minutes of the court's second deadline, but "the document he ultimately provided was not only worthless, but it was objectively false and misleading, despite being given under penalty of perjury."

"I have no further comment," said Attorney Buddy Ford, who is representing Govoni. "We're going to be getting more documentation to the trustee."

Ford told the court his team has provided tax and loan documents and has issued subpoenas to Govoni's former personal attorney and account.

However, that wasn't good enough for Colton, who found Govoni in contempt. She said he's nowhere close to the production of documents that have been requested.

In one court order document, Colton wrote: "Govoni has created a massive corporate web of investments and transactions. He is using the complexity of the web as a means of frustrating the Trustee's collection efforts." The judge continued to write: "Govoni's contempt of this Court's orders is not only willful, but it is also knowingly intended to further injure the victims."

A former client, [a girl named Amora](#), was injured in a car crash 10 years ago.

Her mother, Nicalea Gonzalez, said she's now taking care of her daughter's needs with credit cards. Gonzalez trusted that Amora's settlement money would be safe at Govoni's non-profit.

"She doesn't have half of what she had in there, and it's not okay," she said.

The victims, who have nothing left to take care of their loved ones, want justice to be served. "It might not be today, but tomorrow, sometime you're going to have to answer for what you did, and I hope it's soon," said Gonzalez.

As for now, Govoni remains quiet and back on the street. Investigative Reporter Brittany Muller asked Govoni, "Will you ever break your silence?"

Govoni did produce some documents. When the judge asked where the documents had been, despite repeated requests for them in the past, Govoni's attorney claimed that some were at a bank, others with a former accountant and still others in Govoni's attic. Still, that doesn't answer the question of why it's taken so long to produce them and why some remain missing.

As for the victims, many of them are skeptical that any of their money will ever be recovered. Some want Govoni to face criminal charges, and while there is a multi-agency U.S. Department of Justice investigation into Govoni and the Center for Special Needs, so far, there's no word on when — or if — Govoni will ever face charges for that missing \$120 million.