

Four charged in financial exploitation of elderly Waco widow of ex-Big Red president Donal S. Sharp, Joe Villasana, (July 9th, 2025)

<https://www.kwtx.com/2025/07/09/four-charged-financial-exploitation-injury-elderly-waco-widow-ex-big-red-president-donal-s-sharp/>

Four charged in financial exploitation of elderly Waco widow of ex-Big Red president Donal S. Sharp



WACO, Texas (KWTX) - Four individuals are charged in the financial exploitation and negligent care of 79-year-old Johnnie Sharp, the widow of former Big Red President Donal Smith Sharp, court documents obtained by KWTX state.

John Jay Justice, 54; and Cassandra Draper, 36, are charged with exploitation of an elderly individual, according to online jail records and court documents.



Chad Justice, 51; and Mary Justice, 79, are both charged with injury to an elderly individual, according to the same records.

The Waco Police Department investigation began in October 2023 and revealed John Justice mentally manipulated the elderly woman, convincing her to give him numerous amounts of money at various times over a 10-year period, department spokeswoman Cierra Shipley said.

Draper also assisted in taking large amounts of money, Shipley further said.

Mary and Chad Justice, who claimed to be the elderly woman's caregivers, are accused of not providing adequate care, resulting in the woman's health deteriorating, Shipley added.



The victim is now safe and receiving around-the-clock care, Waco police said.

“I would like to thank all of the law enforcement agencies and the people involved that most recently investigated this case,” Brad Sharp told KWTX, “My family looks forward to justice finally being served.”

Donal Smith Sharp was the president and CEO of Big Red Inc.

The former executive, who passed away in 2014, “was instrumental in elevating the regional soft drink to the national level,” according an obituary in the Waco Tribune Herald.

John Justice and Draper are being held on \$100,000 bonds at the McLennan County Jail.

Chad and Mary Justice are being held on \$150,000 bonds.

Because the four suspects had not been previously arrested in this case, they were indicted under seal by a McLennan County grand jury last week.

Those indictments were unsealed on Wednesday after the suspects were booked into the McLennan County Jail.

KWTX has learned a fifth suspect who lives out of state is expected to be charged in the investigation.

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