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Grand jury indicts three in cemetery fraud case

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INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - A Marion County grand jury has indicted three people accused of helping raid \$24 million intended to maintain the graves of people who had paid in advance for their funerals.

The three theft indictments come six months after Marion County prosecutors charged Robert E. Nelms and his wife, Debora Johnson.

Prosecutor Carl Brizzi says the couple bought the Indianapolis-based Memory Gardens Management Corporation for \$27 million in December 2004 and then drained the trust fund.

Brizzi says the three people indicted today allegedly helped transfer the money for Nelms and his wife and were aware of the scheme.

They're identified as 51-year-old David Becher, vice president of Community Trust and Savings in Noblesville; 42-year-old Mark Singer, a former officer with investment firm Smith Barney; and 45-year-old Sherry Katz-Crank, a Michigan attorney for Robert Nelms.

The three are expected to surrender to authorities within a few days.

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