

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2015

## **Burglary suspect a no-show for arraignment**

A bench warrant was issued today for the arrest of Sheila Ely, a burglary suspect who was arrested with her husband on November 20 for the “distraction burglary” of an elderly East Farmingdale woman, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said. Ely, 37, who was free on \$15,000 cash bail, did not appear for her scheduled arraignment on an indictment today in Riverhead.

Ely’s husband, Al Tan, also known as “Rocky Shaw”, 46, who is incarcerated in the Suffolk County jail without bail, will be arraigned tomorrow, Friday, December 18, before State Supreme Court Justice John Collins (third floor of the courthouse).

District Attorney Spota said the couple victimized a woman in October when they allegedly posed as landscapers to lure the 93 year old victim into her backyard to discuss her trees. During the conversation Tan left the yard and entered the home. “The victim told police her late husband’s military medal, wedding ring and other jewelry were taken from a back room of the house,” District Attorney Spota said.

Detectives found Tan and Ely at the Days Inn Motel in Copiague where they were arrested and charged with burglary in the second degree.

Suffolk County Police said deception-style burglary suspects often target the elderly and will pose as tree trimmers, roofers and driveway repairmen to get the victims out of the house. Residents should be alert for anyone who tries to request unsolicited work at their home.



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A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.