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# Former Queens couple admits to embezzling \$900G from Long Island company

By GRAHAM RAYMAN  
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Linda Minervini, 53, and Thomas Cacaci Jr., 37, pleaded guilty Tuesday to grand larceny for stealing \$913,315.89. (Nassau County District Attorney)

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A former Queens couple has copped to stealing more than \$900,000 from a Long Island construction company to buy cars and a swanky Las Vegas home over a six-year period.

Linda Minervini, 53, and Thomas Cacaci Jr., 37, pleaded guilty Tuesday to grand larceny for stealing \$913,315.89 between 2009 and 2015 from a Lynbrook-based company, officials said.

"Like most embezzlers, this scam left a paper trail that our investigators and prosecutors dutifully followed," Nassau District Attorney Madeline Singas said.

The devious duo created a fake company, New York Emergency & First Response Inc., and collected fraudulent claim settlements to swipe the money, Nassau County prosecutors said.

Minervini, who worked as a paralegal at Sorbara Construction Corp. and was authorized to settle liability construction claims under \$10,000, got general releases of liability from claimants and sent them their settlement checks.

Sorbara's owner signed the checks believing they were legitimate claims.

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Many of the checks were made out to Cacaci, who would cash them at a check-cashing store and deposit the money in the phony New York Emergency & First Response Inc. account.

The couple was foiled in November 2015 by the office manager who noticed the number of checks being written for the fake settlements was much higher than was possible.

Minervini was confronted and fired. The couple, who moved from Queens to Las Vegas, spent the swindled cash on the home, furnishings, cars, lawyer's fees, plane tickets and hotel rooms, prosecutors said.

They were arrested by Las Vegas police Dec. 9 and were brought to New York to face charges.





"He pled guilty. He accepted his responsibility and is looking to turn over a new leaf in life," Cacaci's lawyer Howard Teichner said.

The couple is expected to be sentenced Aug. 2.

Topics: [nassau county](#), [long island](#), [fraud](#)



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Graham Rayman covers criminal justice and policing for the New York Daily News. He has won multiple journalism prizes over his 30-year career. He has previously worked at New York Newsday, Newsday, and the Village Voice. He authored a book on a police officer who became a whistleblower in Brooklyn called "The NYPD Tapes."

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