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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

## **Landlord Drains Bank Account of Stroke Victim Tenant**



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that EDWARD THOMAS, 55, of Bronx, NY, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, and (1) Count of Forgery in the Second Degree, both class D Felonies, before the Honorable Judge Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court yesterday afternoon.

In May of 2015 at a residence in the City of Albany, THOMAS, who was landlord of the property, stole personal checks belonging to a tenant who had recently suffered a stroke. THOMAS forged the victim's signature and cashed the checks, eventually emptying out the victim's bank account over the course of several months in 2015.

THOMAS faces 2 to 6 years in State Prison, and will also be forced to pay restitution of over \$31,000 to the victim when sentenced on November 30, 2016.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Mastaitis prosecuted this case.

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