

Tom Berg
First Assistant

Vivian King
Chief of Staff



500 Jefferson, 6th Floor
Houston, Texas

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KIM K. OGG

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Harvey conman gets five years in prison

A conman, who preyed on Hurricane Harvey victims by posing as a roofer, was sentenced to five years in prison Monday, Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg announced.

Aaron Dean Oaks, 35, pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$30,000 during a scheme born of the 2017 storm that disrupted millions of lives and damaged thousands of homes.

“We aren’t going to tolerate anyone preying on our community, especially in a time of crisis,” Ogg said. “We will continue to seek justice on behalf of victims who faced the indignity of being targeted by criminals using the storm’s wrath to unleash their scams.”

Oaks swindled three families - one in Harris County, one in Brazoria County and one in Galveston County - by not performing promised repairs, according to court documents.

After getting paid, Oaks never did any of the work, nor returned any of the funds.

As part of a plea agreement, Oaks paid \$10,000 to the victims last week.

The judge in the 182nd District Court ordered that the remainder of the funds must be paid back to the victims prior to any parole.

This will mark Oak’s second trip to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, after was sentenced to two years in 2011 for driving while intoxicated.

The roofing scam was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adam Brodrick, of the Consumer Fraud Division, and investigated by Deer Park Police.

“After Hurricane Harvey, this scammer’s victim’s came forward to Deer Park Police in search of help,” Lt. Christopher Brown said. “We’re proud that our investigation helped send him to prison and saved others from falling victim to him.”

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