

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Inspector General

Fugitive

Poul Thorsen



Fugitive Status

WANTED

Charges

In April 2011, Thorsen was indicted on 22 counts of Wire Fraud and Money Laundering.

Possible whereabouts

Denmark

Amount of Arrears	\$891,814
Date of Birth	May 1, 1961 (63 years old)

Report Seeing This Fugitive

Or call the Fugitive Hotline: (888) 476-4453

Investigation Details

From approximately February 2004 until February 2010, Poul Thorsen executed a scheme to steal grant money awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC had awarded grant money to Denmark for research involving infant disabilities, autism, genetic disorders, and fetal alcohol syndrome. CDC awarded the grant to fund studies of the relationship between autism and the exposure to vaccines, the relationship between cerebral palsy and infection during pregnancy, and the relationship between developmental outcomes and fetal alcohol exposure.

Thorsen worked as a visiting scientist at CDC, Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, before the grant was awarded.

The initial grant was awarded to the Danish Medical Research Council. In approximately 2007, a second grant was awarded to the Danish Agency for Science, Technology, and Innovation. Both agencies are governmental agencies in Denmark. The research was done by the Aarhus University and Odense University Hospital in Denmark.

Thorsen allegedly diverted over \$1 million of the CDC grant money to his own personal bank account. Thorsen submitted fraudulent invoices on CDC letterhead to medical facilities assisting in the research for reimbursement of work allegedly covered by the grants. The invoices were addressed to Aarhus University and Sahlgrenska University Hospital. The fact that the invoices were on CDC letterhead made it appear that CDC was requesting the money from Aarhus University and Sahlgrenska University Hospital although the bank account listed on the invoices belonged to Thorsen.

Tags Health Care Fraud Most Wanted