



Aurora woman held in \$800,000 theft

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Victoria Pavek's 20-year career with UPS didn't end with cake, balloons or an office party.

Instead, the 48-year-old Aurora woman's supervisors fired her last October when they suspected that she was stealing money from the company.

After a six-month investigation, Addison police Monday arrested Pavek at her home at 1013 W. Downer Place and charged her with embezzling nearly \$800,000.

Authorities say the money was stolen over the past eight years from the UPS district office in Addison, where Pavek worked as a supervisor in the collections department.

Pavek had diverted UPS funds into her own bank account or, on several occasions, used the company's funds for personal expenses, according to a DuPage County state's attorney's office spokesman.

When UPS learned of the problem, the company did an internal investigation. UPS spokeswoman Kristen Petrella said the company also contacted customers who were affected and returned their money.

"We do take swift action if there is a possibility of dishonesty of theft," Petrella said.

After UPS finished its probe last October, company officials alerted Addison police and the state's attorney's office.

"They knew they had a problem and they brought it to us," said Mark Van Stedum, Addison police detective commander.

The police and state's attorney's office worked together on sending subpoenas to area banks and UPS to access financial records. Van Stedum said this demanded some patience for detectives before they could make the arrest .

"It's a lot of paperwork and a lot of money tracing," he said. "We needed to get all that information. Then we were able to get the case together."

Pavek is being held in the DuPage County jail on a \$1æmillion bond. If convicted, she faces four to 15 years in prison. Pavek wouldn't be eligible for probation, since she is charged with stealing more than \$500,000.