

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Foster Care Executives Charged With Embezzlement

A couple who contracted with Los Angeles County to operate a series of foster homes has been arrested and charged with embezzling more than \$460,000 since 2008, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

CSJ Kidogo, executive director of Little People's World, Inc., and his wife, Hitaji Kidogo, LPW's assistant executive director, were arrested today at their home in Banning by the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation. A felony warrant filed Tuesday charges them with 22 counts of misappropriation of public funds and embezzlement.

"I am pleased to announce that Little People's World Group Homes will be closing soon because of these arrests today," District Attorney Jackie Lacey said. "Money intended to care for children in foster homes instead lined the pockets of the executives who ran the programs. We take these crimes very seriously."

Deputy District Attorney Kennes Ma with the Public Integrity Division is prosecuting the case.

Little People's World (LPW) operates four group homes that provide foster care to 28 children in the county. Between 2008 and 2013, prosecutors said the couple embezzled more than \$466,000.

An audit by the county's Auditor-Controller discovered that CSJ Kidogo borrowed money earmarked for foster care to purchase real estate for himself and pay mortgages on properties not used for LPW's foster care program. Prosecutors also allege the couple used public funds for personal financial gain.

CSJ Kidogo (dob 3/28/41) and Hitaji Kidogo (dob 6/01/51) are scheduled to be arraigned in case BA429310 on Monday at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Department 30. Prosecutors will ask that their bail be set at \$550,000 each.

If convicted, each defendant faces up to 14 years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.