

FRAUD SUSPECT ACCUSED OF THEFT

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A man from St. Louis was charged in warrants Tuesday in St. Louis County with four counts of stealing more than \$150. Police said he was involved in a scheme to bilk investors out of more than \$30,000 through misleading newspaper ads.

The man is Jack G. Turner, 35, of the 1500 block of Cass Avenue. He was arrested last year on charges of using misleading newspaper ads to bilk investors. He is in City Jail, where he is being held on charges of forgery and passing bad checks, authorities said.

While in jail last year, Turner appealed to readers in other newspaper ads to help him with legal fees, saying he had become a compulsive gambler.

The latest charges are the result of a three-month investigation led by Detective Tom Kletzer of the Olivette Police Department.

Investigators said the new case first had come to the attention of authorities in late November, when a resident of Olivette had complained to police. The man told police that he had seen an advertisement in a newspaper from an entrepreneur seeking partners for a computer company. The man told police that he had invested \$3,700 in the company.

The man told police that he had invested the money two months earlier, but had been unable to detect any progress in the office the company had rented at 710 North Ballas Road in Creve Coeur. Kletzer developed information that three other investors had responded to Turner's newspaper ad, police said. The three invested a total of \$28,000.

'The company did, in fact, incorporate,' said Lt. Robert Terry of the Olivette Police Department. 'But it never really started. Nobody seemed to know exactly what was going on.'

Investigators then subpoenaed the company's financial records and discovered that shortly after investors had made their deposits, Turner had withdrawn the money.

By the time investigators gained access to the company's account, all the money was gone, Terry said.

Newspaper records show that Turner was charged in May with deceptive business practices and attempted theft in a series of confidence schemes in which investors were solicited through newspaper ads. Police said the victims of those schemes might have lost as much as \$50,000.

Shortly after he was jailed in May, Turner ran ads in the personal columns, asking for financial and

legal help. In the ads, he described himself as a 'young professional man' who 'had become a compulsive gambler via family tragedy.' He gave the address of City Jail as his return address.