



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes
Southern District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2007
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CONTACT: CHARLIE McNICHOL
PHONE: (251) 415-7131
FAX: (251) 441-5277

ANOTHER ALABAMA RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR FEMA FRAUD

FOLLOWING HURRICANE KATRINA

MOBILE, Al. – Hannah Williams, of Jackson, Alabama, was ordered to repay more than \$22,000 to FEMA and sentenced to three years of probation following her conviction on fraud charges, United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes of the Southern District of Alabama announced today.

Williams, 48, of Jackson, Alabama, was charged in a five-count federal indictment with making false claims to the government, mail fraud, and wire fraud. Williams made a false and fraudulent application for disaster assistance from FEMA following Hurricane Katrina, claiming that her primary residence and personal property had been damaged, but it had been more than eighteen months since she had moved out of the claimed residence. Williams received \$22,904.31 from FEMA as a result of the fraud and in October, 2006 pled guilty to making a false claim to the government.

Williams's daughter, Lawanda Williams, who helped her mother file the fraudulent claim, was sentenced on Wednesday to 75 months in prison on separate FEMA fraud charges.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division - includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, and others.

Anyone with information about fraudulent activity is encouraged to report it immediately through the Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721, or via email at katrinafraud@dodig.mil.

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