



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
May 28, 2009

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

LOGANSPORT, LA MAN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR FEMA FRAUD

Defendant fraudulently applied for FEMA benefits

Lake Charles, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **CLETUS P. ORPHY**, age 47, of Logansport, Louisiana, was sentenced by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi to one month in community based confinement with credit for time served and ordered to pay \$2,000.00 in restitution, followed by two years supervised release for making false claims.

ORPHY, was indicted in February 2008 and pled guilty on March 5, 2009 for making false claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Rita disaster assistance benefits.

The defendant, CLETUS ORPHY, made a false application with FEMA for disaster relief benefits as a result of Hurricane Rita. At the time of the offense, ORPHY claimed to reside in Lake Charles, Louisiana when the hurricane struck the area, and pursuant to his false application, received a disbursement from FEMA in the amount of \$2,000.00. ORPHY knew the claim was false, fictitious, and fraudulent.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United

States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

###