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News Release

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St. Paul man sentenced for identity theft, false representation of a Social Security number

A 60-year-old St. Paul man was sentenced today in federal court on two counts of false representation of a Social Security number and one count of aggravated identity theft.

On April 27 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge James Rosenbaum sentenced Muhammad Abdul Shareef to 60 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Shareef was charged on July 22, 2008, and pleaded guilty on Nov. 6, 2008.

According to Shareef's plea agreement, he admitted that he knowingly and with the intent to deceive falsely represented a Social Security account number to be the account number assigned to him by the Social Security Administration. Shareef also admitted making the false representation for the purpose of obtaining loan funds from a financial services company. He did obtain approximately \$10,000 on June 14, 2007.

Shareef admitted that on June 20, 2007, he falsely represented another Social Security account number to obtain approximately \$14,000 in loan funds from another financial services company.

Shareef also admitted that on June 14, 2007, he did knowingly transfer, possess and use, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person in relation to making the false representation of a Social Security account number.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Genrich.