

# NEWS

---

United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

---

---



---

---

***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

---

---

***More Information?*** Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

***News on the Internet:*** News Releases and related documents are posted at our website, along with links to our archived releases for other years. ***Go to: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/publicaffairs](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/publicaffairs)***

---

---

Assistant U.S. Attorney:  
THOMAS R. CALCAGNI  
973-645-2918

madu1120.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Nov. 20, 2008

---

Former DYFS Employee Charged with Cashing  
Forged Refund Checks Issued in the Names of DYFS Clients

---

(More)

---

---

Public Affairs Office  
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

Breaking News: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/)

---

---

NEWARK – A former employee of the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services (“DYFS”), was arrested today and appeared in federal court on charges that he conspired with his live-in girlfriend to pass forged U.S. Treasury checks issued in the names of individuals served by DYFS, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Ugochukwu H. Madubuike, 29, of Orange, was arrested by federal agents early this morning at his home; his girlfriend, Onyinye M. Nwokeji, 26, was arrested in her car in Irvington. Both are named in the same criminal Complaint. They were ordered detained during a hearing this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Claire C. Cecchi.

The defendants are charged with conspiring to pass multiple tax refund checks that were fraudulently endorsed. The conspiracy charge carries a maximum statutory penalty of five years in federal prison and a fine of \$250,000.

According to the criminal Complaint, Madubuike worked as a Family Services Specialist with DYFS from June 2004 to November 2007, where he had access to personal information, including the names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth, of those individuals served by the agency. Following a tip from a Bank of America employee regarding the suspicious deposit into Madubuike’s bank account of a U.S. Treasury tax refund check issued in the name of someone other than Madubuike, federal law enforcement soon discovered numerous fraudulently endorsed tax refund checks being deposited into the bank accounts of both Madubuike and Nwokeji.

In total, the investigation revealed approximately 170 tax refunds issued in the names of people other than the defendants, totaling approximately \$660,000, that were deposited into the defendants’ bank accounts. At least some of those tax refunds were allegedly issued in the names of individuals who were once served by DYFS and never authorized the defendants to prepare tax returns or deposit tax refunds on their behalf.

A criminal Complaint is merely an accusation. All those accused of a crime are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Washington Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge, John K. Butkovich; Special Agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord; Special Agents of the U.S. Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Cynthia Wofford; and Postal Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Postal Inspector in Charge David L. Collins, for their investigation of the case.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas R. Calcagni of the U.S. Attorney’s Office Special Prosecution’s Division in Newark.

-end-

Defense Counsel:

for Madubuike – Linda Foster, Esq. Federal Public Defender’s Office, Newark

for Nwokeji – Marc Leibman, Esq., Fort Lee