

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009
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WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO AGGRAVATED IDENTIFY THEFT

BUFFALO, N.Y.--Georgia F. Bowen, 34, from Jamaica, who has been living in Buffalo and Kenmore, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny, to a felony charge of Aggravated Identify Theft, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. Aggravated Identity Theft carries a mandatory sentence of 2 years imprisonment.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Marie P. Grisanti, who handled the case, stated that between 1998 and 2009, the defendant assumed the name and social security number of another person. Specifically, the defendant applied for a passport using the name and social security number the victim. The defendant also used the same name and social security number to obtain approximately \$13,000 in Medicaid benefits from the Erie County Department of Social Services. She also obtained utility services at residences in Buffalo and Kenmore using that identity.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Christopher Paul, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of State Diplomatic Security Service, New York City Field Office; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Lev Kodiak, Special Agent in Charge; and Postal Inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Ronald C. Walker, Inspector in Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. EST, in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny.