

**PRESS NOTICE**  
**BILL NETTLES**  
**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**  
**DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
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**May 15, 2012**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Newberry Woman Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement and Tax Fraud Charges**

**Columbia, South Carolina** – United States Attorney Bill Nettles announced today that Tina Clinton of Newberry, South Carolina, pleaded guilty in federal court in Greenville, South Carolina, before the Honorable Michelle Childs to one count of embezzlement and five counts of filing false tax returns. Evidence presented at the plea hearing established that during the course of her employment as a bookkeeper at the J.F. Hawkins Nursing Home from 2005 to 2009, Ms. Clinton embezzled a total of \$440,958.05. As a bookkeeper, Ms. Clinton had the responsibility of making deposits, and rather than deposit checks for residents receiving Social Security and Veteran's benefits, Ms. Clinton cashed the checks and diverted the funds to her personal use. Ms. Clinton was able to cover her theft by making accounting adjustments to the residents' accounts. Ms. Clinton also failed to report the stolen income on her tax returns, and has an additional tax due and owing of over \$65,000.00.

U.S. Attorney Nettles added that no resident of the nursing home lost money as a result of the embezzlement, because the loss was covered by a bonding company. As a part of her plea agreement, Ms. Clinton has agreed to make full restitution of the loss to the bonding company. Ms. Clinton was fired from her position upon discovery of her theft.

Judge Childs of Greenville will impose sentence after she has reviewed a presentence report prepared by the U.S. Probation Office. The maximum sentence Ms. Clinton faces on the embezzlement charge is 10 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a fine of twice the loss to the victim. The maximum sentence Ms. Clinton faces on each of the tax charges is 3 years imprisonment, a year of supervised release, and a fine of \$250,000.00.

This investigation and conviction is a result of the cooperation of agents of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, the Newberry Police Department, and the Offices of the Inspector General at both the Veterans' Administration and the Social Security Administration. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Beth Drake.

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