



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ORANGEBURG WOMEN INDICTED FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated today that Lynn Phillips Smith, age 60, of Orangeburg, South Carolina, was charged with one count of theft of government funds and one count of failing to advise the Social Security Administration of circumstances that affected the continuing right of a person for whom she was a representative payee to continue to receive Supplemental Security Income, violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641 and Title 42, United States Code, Section 1383a. In Addition, Vanessa Jansen, age 50, also of Orangeburg, was charged in the Indictment with one count of providing false information to the Social Security Administration in connection with an investigation into Smith's actions, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001.

The maximum penalty the defendants could receive is a fine of \$250,000 on each count. Smith could also receive up to ten years imprisonment on the theft of government funds count and five years on the charge of failing to report the change in circumstances. Jansen faces up to five years imprisonment in addition to the fine.

Mr. Wilkins stated that the case was investigated by agents of the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney Dean A. Eichelberger of the Columbia office for prosecution.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in this Indictment are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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