

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

*San Diego, California*

*United States Attorney  
Laura E. Duffy*

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** – April 13, 2012

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Dr. Roberto J. Velasquez, a licensed psychologist, was arrested today in Chula Vista, California, on charges of selling false documentation certifying to patients' disabilities. The false certifications are alleged in the criminal complaint to have been used by patients in connection with: (1) securing exemptions from taking written examinations required for naturalization purposes (as charged in count one of the complaint); and (2) qualifying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits.

The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations--the principal investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration, in cooperation with the United States Attorney's Health Care Fraud initiative. As part of the investigation, agents executed a search warrant at the business premises of Dr. Velasquez in National City, California.

The defendant is expected to be in court this afternoon at 1:30 p.m., before United States Magistrate Judge Mitchell D. Dembin.

**DEFENDANT**

**Criminal Case No. 12MJ1290**

Roberto J. Velasquez

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Count One - Title 18, United States Code, Section 1546 – False Statements in Immigration Documents  
Maximum Penalties: 10 years of imprisonment and \$250,000 fine

Count Two - Title 42, United States Code, Section 1383(a)(2) - False Statements in Applications for SSI  
Disability Benefits  
Maximum Penalties: 5 years of imprisonment and \$250,000 fine

**PARTICIPATING AGENCIES**

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations  
Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration

**A criminal complaint itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**