



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates
Northern District of Georgia

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

GRANDMOTHER PLEADS GUILTY TO SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

Woman Stole \$54,000 of Supplemental Security Income Benefits Meant For Her Grandchildren

Atlanta, GA - CAROLYN DAVIS, 43, of College Park, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to wire fraud for improperly using social security benefits designated for her grandchildren.

Acting United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "The Social Security Administration relies on the honesty and good faith of Social Security recipients to report information that impacts continuing entitlement. Some unscrupulous people, however, view Social Security benefits as money waiting to be taken. Today's guilty plea should assure the public that our office is committed to protecting the integrity of federal entitlement programs."

According to Acting United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: DAVIS filed applications with the Social Security Administration to become the representative payee for her grandchildren in 2002. DAVIS was approved as the representative payee and began receiving SSI benefits on behalf of her grandchildren in 2003. However, on August 5, 2003, a Clayton County Juvenile Court Judge removed the children from DAVIS and granted temporary custody to a maternal aunt. Despite losing custody of her grandchildren on August 5, 2003, DAVIS continued receiving SSI benefits until May 2007. In total, DAVIS received \$53,398.20 in SSI benefit payments. DAVIS never informed the custodial family member that the children were receiving SSI benefits and used the funds for her personal use. DAVIS also falsely reported to SSA on May 4, 2004; May 10, 2005; May 9, 2006; and November 20, 2006, that she used the SSI benefit funds designated for her grandchildren for their care and support.

DAVIS was indicted on September 22, 2009, on 64 counts of wire fraud, 4 counts of providing false statements to a federal agency, and 1 count of public health and welfare fraud. She pleaded guilty to 1 count of wire fraud and could receive a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. In determining the actual sentence, the

Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 28, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., before United States District Judge Orinda D. Evans.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Loranzo M. Fleming is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, Acting United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.