



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates  
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/27/10

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

CONTACT: Charysse L. Alexander

(404)581-6056

FAX (404)581-6160

## **ATLANTA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING FEDERAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

### ***Anderson Stole Over \$55,000 After His Mother Passed Away***

ATLANTA, GA - TITUS ALEXANDER ANDERSON, 62, of Atlanta, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to stealing retirement benefits from the United States Office of Personnel Management, Civil Service Retirement System.

“Hardworking Americans depend on retirement benefits to sustain them in their golden years,” said United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates. “This defendant stole money that should have gone to honest retirees, and now he is a convicted felon.”

“People who fail to report the death of a retired Federal employee so they can steal the monthly pension payment seem to feel they will never get caught, or if they do, they can just pay back the money and that's the end of it,” said Patrick E. McFarland, Inspector General for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. “They are wrong. We will discover the theft, we will conduct a criminal investigation, and, as shown here today, we will assist in the prosecution of the thief.”

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: ANDERSON stole retirement benefits originally intended for his mother. When ANDERSON’S mother died in 2001, he continued to spend the federal retirement benefits that were deposited directly into her bank account. His fraud continued for more than 5 years, during which time he stole over \$55,000.

In June 2010, ANDERSON was charged in a Criminal Information with one count of stealing money belonging to the United States, and pleaded guilty to the charge. He could receive a maximum sentence of ten 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.

On January 11, 2010, SANDRA LEE SHORT, 67, of Talking Rock, Georgia, pleaded guilty to similar charges. SHORT stole over \$114,000 in federal retirement benefits. On May 5, 2010, SHORT was sentenced to serve 5 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$114,245.85 in restitution.

When someone receiving federal retirement benefits passes away, survivors, family, or estate representatives are required to notify the Office of Personnel Management of the recipient's death. That office can be contacted by email at [retire@opm.gov](mailto:retire@opm.gov), via their website at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov), or by phone at 1-888-767-6738.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 5, 2010, at 11:00 a.m. before United States District Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Office of Personnel Management, Office of Inspector General.

Assistant United States Attorney Christopher Bly is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Linda Isaac at (404) 581-6056. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.justice.gov/usao/gan](http://www.justice.gov/usao/gan).