



# Department of Justice

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## **JEFFERSON WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD**

### ***Mother Fraudulently Applied for Survivor's Benefits on Behalf of Her Children***

GAINESVILLE, GA - TEDRA DITMORE, 38, of Jefferson, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court to making false statements to the Social Security Administration in an application for survivor's benefits.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "This defendant received almost \$200,000 after telling the Social Security Administration that those benefits were legitimately being used for her children. Her fraudulent statements not only could send her to federal prison, it took money away from truly needy Social Security recipients who really would have used those funds for their children."

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: DITMORE filed a claim for Children's Insurance Survivor's Benefits on November 3, 2005, under the record of her deceased husband. DITMORE indicated that her two children were living with her and her deceased husband at the time of his death, and that her husband provided at least 50% care and support to the children prior to his death. Based upon the information provided to the Social Security Administration DITMORE was approved to receive survivor's benefits for her children. DITMORE also completed annual reports that indicated her children lived with her and that she used all of the Social Security benefit funds for their care and support.

The Social Security Administration received information that DITMORE was not the custodial parent of her two children. SSA began an investigation, which revealed DITMORE was not the custodial parent of her children; the children resided with their biological father, and had, in fact, lived with him since 2001. Additionally, the investigation revealed that DITMORE's deceased husband did not provide 50% care and support for her children prior to his death. DITMORE'S misrepresentation and false statements caused the Social Security Administration to improperly issue benefit payments to DITMORE from 2005 to 2009 in the amount of \$189,180.

DITMORE was indicted on October 19, 2010. She pleaded guilty today to making

false statements to a federal agency. She could receive a maximum sentence of 5 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.

A sentencing date has not been set before United States District Judge William C. O'Kelley in Gainesville.

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, 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.justice.gov/usao/gan](http://www.justice.gov/usao/gan).