



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Nicholas A. Klinefeldt
Southern District of Iowa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 25, 2011
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/ias/>

CONTACT: Kevin VanderSchel
(515) 473-9300
kevin.vanderschel@usdoj.gov

FORMER IOWA CITY MAN SENTENCED ON CHARGE OF FALSE STATEMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES

DAVENPORT, IA- On August 25, 2011, Ephrin Matthew Wright, age 43, formerly of Iowa City, Iowa, was sentenced to 5 months imprisonment after pleading guilty to making a false statement to a Department of the United States, announced United States Attorney Nicholas A. Klinefeldt. United States District Judge John A. Jarvey also ordered that Wright be jointly and severally liable for restitution in the amount of \$17,939, serve two years of supervised release and pay \$100 to the Crime Victims Fund. A co-defendant, Gloria Hardiman, was previously sentenced to six months imprisonment after pleading guilty to theft of U.S. government funds.

Pursuant to a joint state and federal investigation, it was determined that both Hardiman and Wright had applied for federal Social Security benefits, but neither disclosed in these applications that they had been married to each other since 1994. In November 2008, both Hardiman and Wright lived at a residence in Iowa City. Hardiman had applied for housing assistance for this residence through the Iowa City Housing Authority. Hardiman failed to report that Wright was married to her, living at this residence and was receiving income. When interviewed, Wright initially denied to federal investigators that he was married to Hardiman and was living at the Iowa City residence. The \$17,939 restitution ordered was to repay the fraudulent housing benefits obtained by Hardiman and Wright from the Iowa City Housing Authority.

This investigation was conducted by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, the Iowa City Housing Authority, and the Iowa Department of Inspection and Appeals, and was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Iowa.