



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois
Western Division*

*John G. McKenzie
Assistant U.S. Attorney*

*308 West State Street - Room 300
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

April 4, 2008

ROCKFORD WOMAN SENTENCED TO 10 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR WRONGFULLY OBTAINING OVER \$79,000 IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and WILLIAM COTTER, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala today sentenced **JOAN L. JARRETT**, 62, Rockford, Illinois, to 10 months in federal prison for wrongfully obtaining over \$79,000 in Social Security benefits. Jarrett will not be eligible for parole. The court also ordered Jarrett to serve three years on supervised release following prison and to pay \$79,152 in restitution to the Social Security Administration.

On December 12, 2007, Jarrett was charged with converting \$79,152 in Social Security Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits. She Jarrett pleaded guilty to the charge on December 18, 2007. In her plea agreement, Jarrett admitted that between 1991 and October 2005, she converted and wrongfully obtained \$79,152 in SSI benefits. According to the plea agreement, when Jarrett applied for SSI benefits in 1990 she stated that her husband no longer lived with her. However, she admitted, when her husband resumed living with her in 1991, she did not notify the Social Security Administration as she was required to do. Had she done so, she would not have been eligible for SSI benefits. Since then, Jarrett admitted, she continued to receive and convert the monthly SSI benefits until October 2005. Jarrett also acknowledged that on three occasions between 1991 and October 2005, she falsely claimed to the Social Security Administration that she was living apart from her husband in order that she could wrongfully continue to receive SSI benefits.

The case was investigated by the Chicago Office of the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration, and prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. McKENZIE.

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