

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA            )  
  ) No. 12 CR 50031  
  ) Judge Frederick J. Kapala  
  )  
vs.    )  
  )  
LAVERNE F. TORREY                    )

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

1. This Plea Agreement between the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, and defendant LAVERNE F. TORREY, and her attorney, JAMES T. ZUBA, is made pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The parties to this Agreement have agreed upon the following:

**Charge in This Case**

2. The information in this case charges defendant with theft of federal money, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.
3. Defendant has read the charge against her contained in the information, and that charge has been fully explained to her by her attorney.
4. Defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crime with which she has been charged.

**Charge to Which Defendant is Pleading Guilty**

5. By this Plea Agreement, defendant agrees to enter a voluntary plea of guilty to the information, which charges defendant with theft of federal money, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

### **Factual Basis**

6. Defendant will plead guilty because she is in fact guilty of the charge contained in the information. In pleading guilty, defendant admits the following facts and that those facts establish her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt:

In general, defendant admits that from approximately April 3, 2009, through approximately August 3, 2011, she embezzled, stole, purloined, and converted to her own use money of the United States consisting of \$37,207 of Social Security retirement benefits.

Specifically, defendant admits that she is the daughter of Mattie B. Torrey. Prior to her death, Mattie B. Torrey was receiving Social Security retirement benefits from the Social Security Administration. The Social Security Administration is an agency of the United States. Social Security retirement benefits cease when the wage earner dies. The adult, non-disabled, children of a wage earner are not entitled to receive the wage earner's Social Security retirement benefits after the wage earner dies.

Mattie B. Torrey's Social Security benefits were deposited directly into a checking account at Urban Partnership Bank in Chicago, Illinois. The signatories on this account were Mattie B. Torrey and the defendant.

Mattie B. Torrey died on March 29, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois. Defendant admits she knew that she was not entitled to receive her mother's Social Security retirement benefits after her mother's death. Despite this fact, defendant failed to notify the Social Security Administration of her mother's death.

From April 3, 2009, through August 3, 2011, \$37,207 of Social Security retirement benefits, payable to Mattie B. Torrey, were deposited into the checking account at Urban Partnership Bank. Defendant admits that she spent all of the funds from this account on her own personal expenses. Defendant knew that the funds she spent from this account included her dead mother's Social Security retirement benefits. Defendant also knew that she was not entitled to receive or spend her dead mother's benefits. At the time she embezzled and stole these Social Security retirement benefits, defendant resided in DeKalb, Illinois.

### **Maximum Statutory Penalties**

7. Defendant understands that the charge to which she is pleading guilty carries the following statutory penalties:

a. A maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment. The Court may also impose a term of probation of one to five years. This offense also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from that offense, whichever is greater. Defendant further understands that the judge also may impose a term of supervised release of not more than three years.

b. In accord with Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, defendant will be assessed \$100 on the charge to which she has pled guilty, in addition to any other penalty or restitution imposed.

### **Sentencing Guidelines Calculations**

8. Defendant understands that in imposing sentence the Court will be guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory, not mandatory, but that the Court must consider the Guidelines in determining a reasonable sentence.

9. For purposes of calculating the Sentencing Guidelines, the parties agree on the following points:

a. **Applicable Guidelines.** The Sentencing Guidelines to be considered in this case are those in effect at the time of sentencing. The following statements regarding the calculation of the Sentencing Guidelines are based on the Guidelines Manual currently in effect, namely the November 2011 Guidelines Manual.

b. **Offense Level Calculations.**

i. The parties agree that the base offense level is 6, pursuant to Guideline § 2B1.1(b)(2).

ii. The parties agree that the offense level must be increased by 6 levels, pursuant to Guideline §2B1.1(b)(1)(D), because the loss caused by defendant's offense was \$37,207.

iii. Defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for her criminal conduct. If the government does not receive additional evidence in conflict with this provision, and if defendant continues to accept responsibility for her actions within the meaning of Guideline § 3E1.1(a), including by furnishing the United States Attorney's Office and the Probation Office with all requested

financial information relevant to her ability to satisfy any fine or restitution that may be imposed in this case, a two-level reduction in the offense level is appropriate.

iv. In accord with Guideline § 3E1.1(b), defendant has timely notified the government of her intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the Court to allocate its resources efficiently. Therefore, as provided by Guideline § 3E1.1(b), if the Court determines the offense level to be 16 or greater prior to determining that defendant is entitled to a two-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in the offense level.

c. **Criminal History Category.** With regard to determining defendant's criminal history points and criminal history category, based on the facts now known to the government, defendant's criminal history points equal zero and defendant's criminal history category is I.

d. **Anticipated Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Range.** Therefore, based on the facts now known to the government, the anticipated offense level is 10, which, when combined with the anticipated criminal history category of I, results in an anticipated advisory Sentencing Guidelines range of 6 to 12 months' imprisonment, in addition to any supervised release, fine, and restitution the Court may impose.

e. Defendant and her attorney and the government acknowledge that the above Guideline calculations are preliminary in nature, and are non-binding predictions upon which neither party is entitled to rely. Defendant understands that further review of the facts

or applicable legal principles may lead the government to conclude that different or additional Guideline provisions apply in this case. Defendant understands that the Probation Office will conduct its own investigation and that the Court ultimately determines the facts and law relevant to sentencing, and that the Court's determinations govern the final Guideline calculation. Accordingly, the validity of this Agreement is not contingent upon the probation officer's or the Court's concurrence with the above calculations, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw her plea on the basis of the Court's rejection of these calculations.

f. Both parties expressly acknowledge that this plea agreement is not governed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), and that errors in applying or interpreting any of the Sentencing Guidelines may be corrected by either party prior to sentencing. The parties may correct these errors either by stipulation or by a statement to the Probation Office or the Court, setting forth the disagreement regarding the applicable provisions of the Guidelines. The validity of this Plea Agreement will not be affected by such corrections, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw her plea, nor the government the right to vacate this Plea Agreement, on the basis of such corrections.

#### **Agreements Relating to Sentencing**

10. The government agrees to recommend that the Court impose a sentence of imprisonment within the applicable guidelines range and to make no further recommendation concerning what sentence of imprisonment should be imposed. The defendant will file a

motion requesting a downward variance from the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range. The United States will oppose defendant's motion for downward variance.

11. It is understood by the parties that the sentencing judge is neither a party to nor bound by this Plea Agreement and may impose a sentence up to the maximum penalties as set forth above. Defendant further acknowledges that if the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, defendant will have no right to withdraw her guilty plea.

12. Regarding restitution, the United States acknowledges that defendant paid full restitution prior to the filing of the criminal information in this case. Based upon this full payment, the United States is not seeking a restitution order in this case.

13. Defendant agrees to pay the special assessment of \$100 at the time of sentencing with a cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court.

14. Defendant agrees that the United States may enforce collection of any fine or restitution imposed in this case pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3572, 3613, and 3664(m), notwithstanding any payment schedule set by the Court.

### **Acknowledgments and Waivers Regarding Plea of Guilty**

#### **Nature of Plea Agreement**

15. This Plea Agreement is entirely voluntary and represents the entire agreement between the United States Attorney and defendant regarding defendant's criminal liability in this case.

16. This Plea Agreement concerns criminal liability only. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, nothing herein shall constitute a limitation, waiver or release by the United States or any of its agencies of any administrative or judicial civil claim, demand or cause of action it may have against defendant or any other person or entity. The obligations of this Agreement are limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois and cannot bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative or regulatory authorities, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

17. Defendant understands that nothing in this Plea Agreement shall limit the Internal Revenue Service in its collection of any taxes, interest or penalties from defendant.

#### **Waiver of Rights**

18. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty she surrenders certain rights, including the following:

a. Right to be charged by indictment. Defendant understands that she has a right to have the charge prosecuted by an indictment returned by a concurrence of twelve or more members of a grand jury consisting of not less than sixteen and not more than twenty-three members. By signing this Agreement, defendant knowingly waives her right to be prosecuted by indictment and to assert at trial or on appeal any defects or errors arising from the information, the information process, or the fact that she has been prosecuted by way of information.



b. **Trial rights.** Defendant has the right to persist in a plea of not guilty to the charge against her, and if she does, she would have the right to a public and speedy trial.

i. The trial could be either a jury trial or a trial by the judge sitting without a jury. However, in order that the trial be conducted by the judge sitting without a jury, defendant, the government, and the judge all must agree that the trial be conducted by the judge without a jury.

ii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve citizens from the district, selected at random. Defendant and her attorney would participate in choosing the jury by requesting that the Court remove prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges.

iii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be instructed that defendant is presumed innocent, that the government has the burden of proving defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and that the jury could not convict her unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The jury would have to agree unanimously before it could return a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

iv. If the trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and determine, after hearing all the evidence, whether or not the judge was persuaded that the government had established defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

v. At a trial, whether by a jury or a judge, the government would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against defendant. Defendant would be able to confront those government witnesses and her attorney would be able to cross-examine them.

vi. At a trial, defendant could present witnesses and other evidence in her own behalf. If the witnesses for defendant would not appear voluntarily, she could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court. A defendant is not required to present any evidence.

vii. At a trial, defendant would have a privilege against self-incrimination so that she could decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from her refusal to testify. If defendant desired to do so, she could testify in her own behalf.

c. **Waiver of appellate and collateral rights.** Defendant further understands she is waiving all appellate issues that might have been available if she had exercised her right to trial. Defendant is aware that Title 28, United States Code, Section 1291, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742, afford a defendant the right to appeal her conviction and the sentence imposed. Acknowledging this, defendant knowingly waives the right to appeal her conviction, any pre-trial rulings by the Court, and any part of the sentence (or the manner in which that sentence was determined), including any term of imprisonment and fine within the maximums provided by law, and including any order of restitution, in exchange for the concessions made by the United States in this Plea Agreement. In addition, defendant also waives her right to challenge her conviction and

sentence, and the manner in which the sentence was determined, and (in any case in which the term of imprisonment and fine are within the maximums provided by statute) her attorney's alleged failure or refusal to file a notice of appeal, in any collateral attack or future challenge, including but not limited to a motion brought under Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255. The waiver in this paragraph does not apply to a claim of involuntariness, or ineffective assistance of counsel, which relates directly to this waiver or to its negotiation, nor does it prohibit defendant from seeking a reduction of sentence based directly on a change in the law that is applicable to defendant and that, prior to the filing of defendant's request for relief, has been expressly made retroactive by an Act of Congress, the Supreme Court, or the United States Sentencing Commission.

d. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty she is waiving all the rights set forth in the prior paragraphs. Defendant's attorney has explained those rights to her, and the consequences of her waiver of those rights.

**Presentence Investigation Report/Post-Sentence Supervision**

19. Defendant understands that the United States Attorney's Office in its submission to the Probation Office as part of the Pre-Sentence Report and at sentencing shall fully apprise the District Court and the Probation Office of the nature, scope and extent of defendant's conduct regarding the charge against her, and related matters. The government will make known all matters in aggravation and mitigation relevant to sentencing.

20. Defendant agrees to truthfully and completely execute a Financial Statement (with supporting documentation) prior to sentencing, to be provided to and shared among the Court, the Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office regarding all details of her financial circumstances, including her recent income tax returns as specified by the probation officer. Defendant understands that providing false or incomplete information, or refusing to provide this information, may be used as a basis for denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Guideline § 3E1.1 and enhancement of her sentence for obstruction of justice under Guideline § 3C1.1, and may be prosecuted as a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 or as a contempt of the Court.

21. For the purpose of monitoring defendant's compliance with her obligations to pay a fine during any term of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced, defendant further consents to the disclosure by the IRS to the Probation Office and the United States Attorney's Office of defendant's individual income tax returns (together with extensions, correspondence, and other tax information) filed subsequent to defendant's sentencing, to and including the final year of any period of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced. Defendant also agrees that a certified copy of this Plea Agreement shall be sufficient evidence of defendant's request to the IRS to disclose the returns and return information, as provided for in Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103(b).

### **Other Terms**

22. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the United States Attorney's Office in collecting any unpaid fine for which defendant is liable, including providing financial statements and supporting records as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

23. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in any tax examination or audit of defendant which directly or indirectly relates to or arises out of the course of conduct which defendant has acknowledged in this Plea Agreement, by transmitting to the IRS original records or copies thereof, and any additional books and records which the IRS may request.

24. Defendant will not object to a motion brought by the United States Attorney's Office for the entry of an order authorizing disclosure of documents, testimony and related investigative materials which may constitute grand jury material, preliminary to or in connection with any judicial proceeding, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 6(e)(3)(E)(i). In addition, defendant will not object to the government's solicitation of consent from third parties who provided records or other materials to the grand jury pursuant to grand jury subpoenas, to turn those materials over to the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, or an appropriate federal or state agency (including but not limited to the Internal Revenue Service), for use in civil or administrative proceedings or investigations, rather than returning them to the third parties for later summons or subpoena in connection with a civil or administrative proceeding involving, or investigation of, defendant. Nothing in this paragraph or the preceding paragraph precludes defendant from asserting any legal or factual defense to taxes, interest, and penalties that may be assessed by the IRS.

25. Defendant understands that pursuant to Title 12, United States Code, Sections 1785(d) and 1829, her conviction in this case will prohibit her from directly or indirectly participating in the affairs of any financial institution insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), except with the prior written consent of the National Credit Union Administration Board or the FDIC and, during the ten years following her conviction, the additional approval of this Court. Defendant further understands that if she knowingly violates this prohibition, she may be punished by imprisonment for up to five years, and a fine of up to \$1,000,000 for each day the prohibition is violated.

### **Conclusion**

26. Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement will be filed with the Court, will become a matter of public record and may be disclosed to any person.

27. Defendant understands that her compliance with each part of this Plea Agreement extends throughout the period of her sentence, and failure to abide by any term of the Agreement is a violation of the Agreement. Defendant further understands that in the event she violates this Agreement, the government, at its option, may move to vacate the Agreement, rendering it null and void, and thereafter prosecute defendant not subject to any of the limits set forth in this Agreement, or may move to resentence defendant or require defendant's specific performance of this Agreement. Defendant understands and agrees that in the event that the Court permits defendant to withdraw from this Agreement, or defendant breaches any of its terms and the government elects to void the Agreement and prosecute

defendant, any prosecutions that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this Agreement may be commenced against defendant in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this Agreement and the commencement of such prosecutions.

28. Should the judge refuse to accept defendant's plea of guilty, this Plea Agreement shall become null and void and neither party will be bound thereto.

29. Defendant and her attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in this Plea Agreement to cause defendant to plead guilty.

30. Defendant acknowledges that she has read this Plea Agreement and carefully reviewed each provision with her attorney. Defendant further acknowledges that she understands and voluntarily accepts each and every term and condition of this Agreement.

AGREED THIS DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICK J. FITZGERALD  
United States Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
LAVERNE F. TORREY  
Defendant

\_\_\_\_\_  
SCOTT A. VERSEMAN  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
327 South Church Street – Suite 3300  
Rockford, Illinois 61101  
815-987-4444

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES T. ZUBA  
Attorney for Defendant  
6067 Strathmoor Drive  
Rockford, Illinois 61107  
815-397-7000