



Department of Justice

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STATE EMPLOYEES PLEAD GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT

\$18,587 in Federal Disaster Funds Diverted to Friends and Family of Employees

LAFAYETTE, La. – Thirteen state employees have pleaded guilty to diverting federal disaster funds to people who were not entitled to those funds, including themselves and family and friends in the Franklin, Louisiana area, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced today.

A federal indictment was filed in November 2009, charging 13 defendants, mostly employees of the Louisiana Office of Social Services, Office of Family Support for St. Mary's Parish, with giving out federal disaster food stamp cards totaling \$18,587 to family and friends who were not entitled to those benefits.

Teresa Hawkins, 50, of Baldwin, La., former Parish Manager of the Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft of government money. She faces a possible maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both per count. A sentencing date has not been set.

Laura Wells, 58, of Franklin, La., former Social Service Analyst for the Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to wire fraud. Wells faces a possible maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, when she is sentenced on August 30, 2010.

Barbara Sanders, 54, of Franklin, La., former Parish Manager of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, pleaded guilty to wire fraud. Sanders faces a possible maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, when she is sentenced on August 30, 2010.

Marich Anderson, 59, of Franklin, La., former 911 Director, pleaded guilty to wire fraud. Anderson faces a possible maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. A sentencing date has not been set.

Angela Gray, 46, of New Iberia, La., former Social Service Supervisor, Office Family Support, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft of government property. She faces a possible maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both per count. A sentencing date has not been set.

Harriet Williams, 53, of Patterson, La., former Social Service Analyst, Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to theft of public money. She faces a \$250,000 fine or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. A sentencing date has not been set.

Edie Harrison, 46, of New Iberia, La., former Social Service Analyst, Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud. She faces 20 years in prison and a 250,000 dollar fine. A sentencing date has not been set.

Paula Bell, 54, of Baldwin, La., former Social Service Analyst, Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft of government property. She faces 10 years in prison, and a 250,000 dollar fine per count . A sentencing date has not been set.

Andrea Broussard, 32, of Baldwin, La., former Social Service Analyst, Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to wire fraud. Broussard faces a possible maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, when she is sentenced on August 30, 2010.

Dorothy Reedom, 55, of New Iberia, La., former Social Service Analyst, Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to theft of public money. She faces a \$250,000 fine or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. A sentencing date has not been set.

Tawana Carson, aka Tawana Colbert, 31, of Franklin, La., former Social Service Analyst, Office of Family Support, pleaded guilty to theft of public money. She faces a \$250,000 fine or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. A sentencing date has not been set.

Felicia Carroll, 41, of Jeanerette, La., former Medicaid Analyst, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft of government property. She faces 10 years in prison and a 250,000 dollar fine per count. A sentencing date has not been set.

Barbara Sonia, 47, of Franklin, La., former Medicaid Analyst, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, pleaded guilty to wire fraud. She faces a possible maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. A sentencing date has not been set.

This case was investigated by Special Agent Kevin Bodden, United States Secret Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Luke Walker.

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