



Department of Justice

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FORMER SOCIAL WORKER PLEADS GUILTY TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FRAUD

Jackson, Miss. - Ruby Williams, 40, of Hollandale, Mississippi, pled guilty in federal court today to wire fraud in connection with a scheme to defraud the U.S. Department of Labor and the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES), announced U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Davis, along with Richard Walker, Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, and Mark Henry, Executive Director of MDES.

Williams admitted to using interstate wire communications to make false claims to MDES to receive federally funded unemployment insurance benefits while she continued to work and receive wages from various employers without reporting those wages to MDES. In response to specific questions each week about work and wages, Williams admitted that she lied to MDES in order to continue to receive the unemployment insurance payments.

From December 2008 through at least June 2010, Williams received approximately \$18,293.00 in fraudulently claimed unemployment benefits while she was working at Warren-Washington-Issaquena Community Action Agency, Washington County Opportunities, Inc. and Delta Community Mental Health, but not reporting the wages from those employers.

Williams will be sentenced on July 10, 2012 and faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Under the federal Mandatory Victim Restitution Act, Williams will also be required to make full restitution as part of any sentence imposed by the court.

The Federal-State Unemployment Insurance Program provides for unemployment insurance payments to eligible workers. Congress also passed the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act and The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) which contributes additional federal funding for weekly unemployment payments. Each State administers the unemployment insurance program within guidelines established by Federal law. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) administers the Program locally. Similar investigations are ongoing and additional criminal prosecutions are anticipated.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, with the assistance of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Carla J. Clark.

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