



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JACKSON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING A FALSE CLAIM FOR SNAP BENEFITS

Jackson, Miss - Louis S. Brooks, age 49, of Jackson, MS, pled guilty in U.S. District Court today to Filing a False Claim for SNAP benefits, U.S. Attorney John Dowdy announced.

On March 17, 2009, Brooks, filed an application for temporary assistance for needy families and food stamps with the Mississippi Department of Human Services in Hinds County, Mississippi. Brooks stated in the application that no member of his household had been convicted of a drug-related felony that was committed since August 22, 1996. However, at the time the defendant executed this application for food assistance, he had been convicted in the Circuit Court of Hinds County, Mississippi for a drug-related felony that was committed since August 22, 1996.

Anyone convicted of a drug related felony under state or federal law after August 22, 1996, is prohibited from receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly known as food stamps). SNAP benefits are funded by the USDA and administered in Mississippi by the Mississippi Department of Human Services.

Brooks will be sentenced on October 17, 2011, and faces a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of Inspector General.

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