



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 May 2011

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyn>

CONTACT: John Duncan or
Tamara Thomson
(315) 448-0672

NEWS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced today that **JANICE WATTS**, age 49, of Syracuse, New York, appeared before the Honorable David E. Peebles yesterday in the United States District Court in Syracuse, New York, following her arrest on May 23, 2011 for Making a Materially False, Fictitious, and Fraudulent Statement, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001. **WATTS** is charged by complaint with going to the Social Security Administration with four forms of identification belonging to her deceased mother and falsely identifying herself as her deceased mother. Using her mother's identification **WATTS** attempted to get her mother's Social Security Benefits reinstated. **WATTS** provided the Social Security Administration staff with a statement certifying that she was alive and well, and signed the statement using her mother's name. **WATTS'** mother died on May 9, 2011.

If convicted of Making a Materially False, Fictitious, and Fraudulent Statement **WATTS** faces a term of imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to \$250,000. All charges against **WATTS** are mere allegations and he is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Further information regarding this case can be obtained by contacting Assistant U.S. Attorney Tamara B. Thomson at (315) 448-0672.

###