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**NEW JERSEY MAN SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT  
FOR STEALING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that WILLIAM JENKINS, a New Jersey resident, was sentenced yesterday in Manhattan federal court to ten months in prison for stealing his deceased mother's social security benefits. JENKINS previously pled guilty in Manhattan federal court on October 5, 2010, before U.S. District Judge JED S. RAKOFF.

According to the Information to which JENKINS pled guilty, the criminal Complaint previously filed in this case, and statements made during the guilty plea and sentencing proceedings:

JENKINS, 54, of Jackson, New Jersey, had access to his mother's bank account into which the Social Security Administration ("SSA") direct deposited her monthly social security benefit. During the guilty plea proceeding, JENKINS admitted that, after his mother passed away, he failed to so notify the SSA, and instead, from June 2008 through November 2009, withdrew the monthly benefits from that account for his personal use. In total, JENKINS admitted that he stole \$30,079.33 in social security benefits. In addition to imposing 10 months in prison, Judge RAKOFF imposed a term of three years of supervised release and ordered full restitution.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General and the Social Security Administration.

This case is being handled by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney CARRIE H. COHEN is in charge of the prosecution.