

Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.
Western District of New York

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS
PHONE: (716) 843-5817
FAX: (716) 551-3051

BUFFALO WOMAN SENTENCED FOR AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT

BUFFALO, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Tancy Taylor, 40, of Buffalo, N.Y., who was convicted of aggravated identity theft, was sentenced two years in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara. Taylor was also ordered to pay full restitution in the amount of \$29,100.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who handled the case, stated that Taylor rented out her home located at 460 Monroe Street in Buffalo. In doing so, the defendant obtained identifying information, such as social security numbers, dates of birth and employer information, from prospective tenants. Taylor then used that identifying information to open on-line banking accounts at two local banks by stealing the identities and posing on-line as the prospective tenants. The defendant used the bank accounts to take out loans and then pocketed the proceeds. More than 100 bank accounts were linked to Taylor and this scheme.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation by Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Tracy Gast.

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