

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** : **CRIMINAL NO. 08 - 540**  
**v.** : **DATE FILED: 9/10/08**  
**MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT** : **VIOLATIONS:**  
: **18 U.S.C. § 1341 (mail fraud - 1 count)**  
: **Notice of forfeiture**

**I N F O R M A T I O N**

**COUNT ONE**

**THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:**

At all times material to this information:

1. Defendant MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT, who previously assisted residents of a boarding home with the Social Security benefits application process, was known in his neighborhood in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as someone who could help people obtain disability checks.
2. The Social Security Administration (“SSA”) administers, among other things, two benefit programs that are based on an applicant’s disability: the Disability Insurance Benefits (“DIB”) program and the Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) program. To be eligible for DIB or SSI, an applicant must be disabled from all substantial gainful activity due to a physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted for a continuous period of at least twelve months.
3. SSA’s ability to properly determine whether an applicant is medically and/or financially eligible to receive DIB or SSI directly depends upon SSA’s ability to access accurate and current information regarding the applicant. Thus, SSA uses and relies upon the information provided by applicants and/or their representatives regarding the applicant’s medical

condition and financial circumstances to determine eligibility for DIB or SSI benefits. If an applicant fails to provide SSA with sufficient medical information regarding the applicant's alleged disability, SSA schedules an appointment for the applicant to be examined by a consultative physician to evaluate the applicant's physical or mental condition.

#### **THE SCHEME**

4. Between in or about May 2003 and March 2008, defendant

#### **MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT**

devised and intended to devise a scheme to defraud SSA, and to obtain money by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises.

#### **MANNER AND MEANS**

It was part of the scheme that:

5. When potential SSA claimants approached defendant MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT for assistance obtaining benefits, he took their information, including their mother's maiden name, date of birth, social security number, place of birth, and educational background and job history, filled out applications, and took the claimants to see R.P., a physician known to defendant SEAWRIGHT for his treatment of boarding home residents.

6. Defendant MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT instructed claimants to inform R.P. that they experienced a mental impairment such as depression that disabled them from work.

7. If SSA scheduled a consultative examination to verify the claimed disability, defendant MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT often used an imposter to pose as the claimant for the examination. Defendant SEAWRIGHT coached the imposters to state that they

experienced a poor upbringing, heard voices, and were depressed. Defendant SEAWRIGHT paid imposters \$500 for their role in the scheme.

8. In return for his service, defendant MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT received claimants' first retroactive checks, usually in the amount of \$1,869. After each claimant's first benefits check was issued and mailed to an address convenient to defendant SEAWRIGHT, defendant SEAWRIGHT instructed claimants to change the address of record to their own.

9. By these fraudulent means, defendant MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT defrauded SSA of approximately \$740,637.05.

10. On or about January 2, 2004, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendant

**MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT,**

for the purpose of executing this scheme, knowingly caused to be delivered by United States Mail, according to the directions thereon, a fraudulently obtained SSA benefits check addressed to beneficiary J.M., a person known to the United States Attorney.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341.

**NOTICE OF FORFEITURE**

**THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:**

1. As a result of the violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, set forth in this information, defendant

**MICHAEL N. SEAWRIGHT**

shall forfeit to the United States of America:

- (a) any property used or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission such offense; and
- (b) any property constituting, or derived from, any proceeds obtained directly or indirectly from the commission of such offense.

2. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), incorporating Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant(s) up to the value of the property subject to forfeiture.

All pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), and Title 18,  
United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C).

**/s/ Laurie Magid**  
**LAURIE MAGID**  
**Acting United States Attorney**