

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	DATE FILED:
v.	:	MAGISTRATE NO.
JOEL ANTONIO SANTIAGO	:	VIOLATION:
JAMITTE FIGUEROA	:	18 U.S.C. § 1012 (receiving compensation
	:	with the intent to defraud the U.S.
	:	Department of Housing and Urban
	:	Development- 1 count)
	:	Consent to Proceed Before U.S.
		Magistrate Judge

INFORMATION

COUNT ONE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this information:

1. The Tenant-Based Section 8 or Housing Choice Voucher Program was a low-income rental assistance program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) and administered by local housing authorities. Eligible participants obtained a voucher which entitled them to lease a private-market apartment with HUD subsidized rent. Based on HUD guidelines, a participant could receive rental assistance ranging from a portion to the entire rent for an apartment. The rental subsidy was paid directly from the housing authority to the landlord. Both tenants and landlords were required to make annual certifications to the housing authority and to HUD and sign written contracts. Among the regulations governing the program, Title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 982.551(j), stated: "The family must not own or have any interest in the unit." This restriction precluded

members of the tenant family from receiving rental assistance while residing in a unit owned by a parent of any member of the family.

2. From in or about September 2002 through in or about August 2008, defendant JOEL ANTONIO SANTIAGO owned a duplex residential building located at 32 North 15th Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102.

3. From in or about September 2002 to in or about August 2008, defendant JAMITTE FIGUEROA rented one of the two units comprising 32 North 15th Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

4. Defendants JOEL ANTONIO SANTIAGO and JAMITTE FIGUEROA had a child together, I.S, born in July 2002.

5. On or about September 25, 2002, defendant JOEL ANTONIO SANTIAGO entered into a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract with HUD, as owner and landlord of 32 North 15th Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, for defendant JAMITTE FIGUEROA and her children E.G., C.G. and the child she shares with defendant SANTIAGO, I.S.

6. The HUD HAP contract specified that the owner of the leased premises must not be a parent of any member of the leasing family, stating: "The owner... is not the parent... of any member of the family..."

7. Beginning in or about October 1998, until in or about August 2008, defendant JAMITTE FIGUEROA received HUD Housing Choice Voucher program subsidies. In order to be eligible to receive these vouchers, defendant FIGUEROA expressly acknowledged that no member of the family was permitted to have an interest in the leased premises. For example, on or about September 6, 2007, defendant FIGUEROA signed the Allentown Housing

Authority Family Obligations document, which states that: "the family must supply any and all information that the AHA and HUD determines is necessary in the administration of the program... Any information that the family provides must be true and complete... The family must not own or have any interest in the unit... The family must not receive rental assistance while residing in a unit owned by a parent... of any member of the family..."

8. Despite the prohibited and undisclosed relationship between defendants JOEL ANTONIO SANTIAGO and JAMITTE FIGUEROA which made them ineligible to participate in the HUD program between in or about September 2002 and in or about August 2008, defendant Santiago received approximately \$44,382 as rent subsidy payments for defendant FIGUEROA from HUD.

9. From in or about September 2002 until in or about August 2008, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, defendants

**JOEL ANTONIO SANTIAGO and
JAMITTE FIGUEROA**

received compensation, rebate, and reward with the intent to defraud the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") or unlawfully to defeat its purposes, in that defendants SANTIAGO and FIGUEROA received a total of \$44,382 in rent subsidy payments from the HUD by failing to disclose a prohibited family relationship that made them ineligible to receive any such benefits.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1012.

ZANE DAVID MEMEGER
United States Attorney