

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL NO. 12- ____
	:	
v.	:	DATE FILED: March 5, 2012
	:	
HATTIE GAUSE, a/k/a "Hattie Taylor"	:	VIOLATIONS:
	:	18 U.S.C. § 641 (conversion of government funds – 1 count)
	:	42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(4) (social security fraud - 1 count)

INFORMATION

COUNT ONE

(Conversion of Government Funds)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this information:

1. The Social Security Administration ("SSA"), an agency of the United States, administered certain government benefit programs, including the Survivor's Insurance Benefit ("SIB") program, pursuant to Title 42, United States Code, Sections 401-434.

2. The SIB program was an earned-right program funded through Social Security wage taxes. When an individual worked, that individual paid taxes on his or her wages into the Social Security trust fund. If that individual paid sufficient Social Security taxes to earn sufficient "credits," as that term was defined for purposes of the Social Security Act, his or her surviving spouse was eligible to receive survivor's insurance benefits after the worker died.

3. In 1954, defendant HATTIE GAUSE was issued a Social Security Number (“SSN”), xxx-xx-1000, under her birth name, “Hattie Lou Hunter.” She married in 1957, and the name on this SSN was changed to HATTIE GAUSE. Defendant GAUSE received wages that were reported to the Social Security Administration under her true name and SSN, xxx-xx-1000.

4. In 1966, defendant HATTIE GAUSE, using the name “Hattie Taylor,” applied for and was issued a second SSN, xxx-xx-5863.

5. Defendant HATTIE GAUSE resided with a man, identified in this information as “L.T.,” for several years prior to his death in 1989. Defendant GAUSE and L.T. never married.

6. In or about 2000, defendant HATTIE GAUSE applied for SIB by using the SSN xxx-xx-5863. Defendant GAUSE asserted that she was entitled to SIB based on the death of L.T., whom she falsely represented was her husband at the time of his death.

7. As a result of her fraudulent use of a SSN and false representations about her marriage to L.T., from in or about September 2000 and continuing through in or about May 2011, defendant HATTIE GAUSE received SIB payments that she was not entitled to receive.

8. In or about 2005, defendant HATTIE GAUSE applied for and received retirement benefits under her true SSN, xxx-xx-1000, which she was legally entitled to based on her work history.

9. Beginning in or about September 2000 and continuing through in or about May 2011, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, the defendant

HATTIE GAUSE
a/k/a “Hattie Taylor”

knowingly converted to her own use money of the United States in excess of \$1,000, that is,

approximately \$87,948 in SIB benefits to which she knew she was not entitled.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

COUNT TWO

(Social Security Fraud)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

1. Paragraphs 1 through 8 of Count One of this information are realleged here.
2. From in or about September 2000 and continuing through in or about May 2011, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, defendant

**HATTIE GAUSE,
a/k/a “Hattie Taylor,”**

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Social Security Administration (“SSA”), willfully, knowingly, and with the intent to deceive, represented a particular social security number, specifically, xxx-xx-5863, was issued to her by the Commissioner of Social Security, when in fact she knew this number was provided to her only after she had furnished false information to the Commissioner of Social Security. Defendant HATTIE GAUSE applied for and received \$87,948 in SIB benefits under the name “Hattie Taylor” by using the fraudulently obtained SSN, xxx-xx-5863, and by falsely claiming that she and L.T. were married prior to his death.

In violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 408(a)(4).

ZANE DAVID MEMEGER
United States Attorney