



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 27, 2011

#### **St. Thomas Woman Pays US \$30,885 to Resolve Civil Social Security Fraud Case**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced today that Jacqueline Simon has agreed to pay \$30,885 to the United States to settle a civil case involving her fraudulent receipt of Social Security benefits.

In a complaint filed in the district court on St. Thomas, the United States alleged that Simeon violated the Federal False Claims Act by falsely stating that a minor child was in her care or custody in order to receive his Social Security benefits. As a result of her false statements, Simeon was designated the representative payee, the person who received the payments from the Social Security Administration to be used to benefit the minor child. The complaint alleged that between June 2005 and June 2009, Simeon improperly received \$29,959 from the Social Security Administration because the minor child was not in her care or custody and the funds were not used to benefit the minor child.

“The False Claims Act is the Government’s primary civil weapon against fraud on the federal dollar,” U.S. Attorney Sharpe said. “Not only is it used to combat fraud against Social Security, it is also used to recover federal money lost due to health care fraud, program fraud and fraud involving federal grants. Anyone can report fraud by calling the U.S. Attorney’s Office at

(340) 774-5757.”

U.S. Attorney Sharpe commended the joint efforts of the Social Security Administration on St. Thomas and the SSA’s Office of Inspector General in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which resulted in the investigation and civil prosecution of this case.

This case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy J. Abraham.