



# Department of Justice

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## CHICAGO WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR HER ROLE IN LOCAL COUNTERFEIT CHECK SCHEME

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Tennille Davis, 33, of Chicago, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 15 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release for possessing and uttering counterfeit checks. Davis was also ordered to pay restitution of \$12,035.80. She pleaded guilty to the charge on May 10, 2010.

From November 24, 2008 to January 31, 2009, numerous counterfeit checks were presented for cash in the Dane County area. The checks purported to be genuine checks from six different businesses and charities. These counterfeit checks were passed by several individuals, including Tennille Davis and her two co-defendants, Shakesha Fields and Shaneese Fields. Shakesha Fields and Shaneese Fields also pleaded guilty to counterfeit check related charges and sentencing for both women is set for August 3, 2010.

At Davis's sentencing, she received an enhancement for her aggravated role as an "organizer" of the scheme. Davis recruited the individuals to pass checks and then drove them around to various check cashing locations.

At sentencing, Judge Crabb also noted Davis's criminal history, commenting that this conviction was now Davis's fourth for fraud related conduct. At the time of this offense, Davis was on federal probation for her May 2005 conviction in the Northern District of Illinois for making false statements to fraudulently obtain benefits from Chicago's Housing Choice Program, a housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The charges against Tennille Davis, Shakesha Fields, and Shaneese Fields were the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith P. Duchemin.

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