



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia**

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/>

CONTACT: Tracy Dorsey Chapman
800-659-8726*(304)345-2200
Tracy.Chapman@usdoj.gov

**FOUR INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY FOR
THEFT OF GOVERNMENT BENEFITS**

U.S. Attorney Pledges to Continue Effort to Combat Theft of Government Benefits

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – United States Attorney R. Booth Goodwin II announced today that a Federal grand jury sitting in Charleston, West Virginia, returned indictments against four people for stealing government benefits.

Sherry Harrison, 49, of Holden, West Virginia, has been indicted for taking over \$46,000 from the U.S. Social Security Administration (“SSA”) from June 2003 to November 2009.

Robin Sinkhorn, 39, of Oak Hill, West Virginia has been charged with stealing over \$20,000 from the SSA from April 2008 to July 2009.

Donna Fizer, 54, and Randell Fizer, 53, both of Hurricane, West Virginia, have been charged with stealing over \$30,000 from the Department of Veterans Affairs from May 2008 to January 2010.

A copy of each Indictment is attached.

“Stealing money from the government is stealing from all of us. These charges underscore my office’s continued commitment to prosecuting those who steal government benefits,” stated U.S. Attorney Goodwin. Goodwin encouraged anyone with information regarding the theft of government benefits to report it to the appropriate agency.

To report fraud, waste or abuse of SSA funds, visit <http://www.ssa.gov/oig>, or contact the Social Security Fraud Hotline at 1-800-269-0271.

To report fraud, waste or abuse of VA funds, visit <http://www4.va.gov/oig> or contact the VA Fraud Hotline at 1-800-488-8244.

PLEASE NOTE: The Fifth Amendment and applicable Federal law gives a criminal defendant a personal right of Indictment by grand jury for Federal crimes punishable by more than one year imprisonment. An Indictment is a formal, written accusation by a grand jury. An Indictment is not proof of guilt, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless the defendants are found guilty.

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