



Department of Justice

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Southern District of West Virginia

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

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BARBOURSVILLE WOMAN ADMITS TO SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

US Attorney Pledges to Continue Initiative to Combat Theft of Government Benefits

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Brenda Sly, 40, of Barboursville, West Virginia, pleaded guilty yesterday before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to filing a false claim with the United States Social Security Administration. Sly, who is scheduled to be sentenced on September 7, 2010, faces up to five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and an order of restitution.

In April 2005, Sly began receiving Supplemental Social Security Income Benefits as the representative payee on behalf of a minor child related to Sly. Subsequently, the minor child was removed from Sly's custody on numerous occasions in 2007. Sly, however, did not notify the Social Security Administration ("SSA") of these changes in custody which would have terminated benefits to Sly. In an effort to continue receiving benefits, on two separate occasions in 2009, Sly submitted a false claim to the SSA claiming the minor child resided in Sly's household. As a result, Sly fraudulently received approximately \$16,359 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

The U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Erik S. Goes is handling the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of the US Attorney's Initiative to Combat Theft of Government Benefits. United States Attorney Booth Goodwin stated, "I have always felt strongly about the importance of these sorts of cases and this office will continue to vigorously prosecute people who make a living by defrauding Federal and state programs meant to help the disabled and those truly in need."

The Initiative is designed to protect public funds and to prosecute those who steal benefits from public programs or agencies such as the Railroad Retirement Board, US Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, and the Department of Labor. The following is a link to the press release concerning the initiative: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/press_releases/2008/jun08/061708.html.

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